

Senior ...
Michael Binyon, in Bonn, presents a portrait of Willy Brandt, West Germany's elder statesman, who is 70 today.

Citizens
Russell Davies provides the lowdown on life in Cambridge.

Ghosts ...
Robert Fisk reports on the grim facts of life in Beirut, where death is a constant companion.

Of Christmas ...

The Monday Page comes face to face with the festive season.



Yet to come
Macao: what does the future hold for the Portuguese colony as neighbouring Hongkong prepares for 1997?

Judge 'has sympathy' in sex case

Judge Brian Gibbons, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court that he had considerable sympathy for a man who had sexual intercourse with a girl aged seven. "It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone," he said. Page 3

Korchnoi mugged

Viktor Korchnoi, the exiled Russian chess grandmaster, was mugged on Tower Bridge on Thursday night, it was revealed last night. Mr Korchnoi, aged 52, is in London for the world chess championship semi-final.

Rothschild deal

Rothschild Group, the holding company of NM Rothschild, the merchant bankers, has agreed to buy the maximum permitted stake in Smith Brothers, the London stockbrokers. Page 19

Peugeot crisis

The French Prime Minister is stepping in to defuse the crisis in the French car industry after the decision of the Peugeot factory to shut down its strike-hit Poissy plant. Page 6

Budget test

The Council of Ministers is to test the legality of the controversial EEC budget. The Council believes at least four points in it could be challenged before the European Court. Page 30

Drink warning

Magistrates in Essex have threatened to impose prison sentences on motorists convicted of drink-driving offences. Essex takes lead page 4

Money savers

With only six shopping days left to Christmas, *Family Money* has been investigating ways of saving by shopping in France. Page 21

India revolution

India is planning to revolutionize the appearance of its locally built cars which at present look as though they belong to the 1950s. Page 6

Neill dismissed

Arsenal have dismissed Terry Neill, their manager for seven years, after a run of poor results, including a home defeat in the Milk Cup by Walsall. Page 25

Leader page 9
Letters: On the Commonwealth, from Professor Mike Faber; public relations and Government, from Mr J. Andrew, and Mr D. Smith; rail archives, from Dr P. W. Lewis. Leading articles: Local authorities: *The Guardian* secret document; Charities Features, page 8

Julian Haviland on Mrs Thatcher's backroom battles: Why preserve Thirties architecture asks Sir John Summerson; Bernard Levin tires of suffering in the name of modern art; Roy Strong on table manners. Obituary, page 10. Mr David Markham, Professor Lionel Mirsky

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Two shot dead as store chief is rescued from IRA

From Richard Ford, Ballinamore, co Leitrim

A soldier and a policeman, members of the Irish Republic's security forces, were shot dead yesterday in fierce gun battles in the history of the Irish state. But detectives believe that they were still hiding in woods, two miles north of the village, near the road leading to the border with co Fermanagh.

Mr Tidye, aged 49, was unharmed after his 22-day ordeal at the hands of the Provisional IRA, who had demanded £5m from the Associated British Foods company for his safe release.

Last night, looking tired and with a grey beard, he made emotional telephone calls to his family at their home in Rathfarnham, co Dublin, and to his business colleagues.

A detective, Mr Donald Kelleher, was shot in the leg when he threw himself in front of Mr Tidye as his captors turned their guns on him. A second soldier was injured, along with two members of the kidnap gang, during three separate gun battles in isolated woodland near the village of Ballinamore, co Leitrim.

Inspector Patrick Malachy said: "Mr Tidye is in good health. He is jumping for joy at his release. He is very excited

and overjoyed at being free again."

Mr Garry Weston, chairman of Associated British Foods, said: "We are supremely delighted on behalf of his family and all of his colleagues."

Chief Supt James McNally said: "It was an excellent day's work, saddened by the deaths of two very brave young men. Mr Tidye was unharmed and I have just been speaking to his daughter, who is delighted at her father's release."

Last night, a massive security operation was taking place on both sides of the border, with police and army checkpoints stopping all vehicles and searching them every few miles, as reports continued to come in that sporadic gunfights had been heard in the woods.

This had been rejected by Associated British Foods, who had taken into account the policy of the British and Irish governments that no cash be paid for kidnap victims.

Mr Tidye was abducted as he drove his daughter to school only a few months after the Provisional IRA had been foiled in an attempt to kidnap Mr Weston, from his home in co Wicklow.

Inflation at lowest for 14 years

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The yearly rate of inflation fell to 4.8 per cent last month and will end the year at the lowest level for 14 years, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

"Today's fall in inflation to 4.8 per cent rounds off a year of good news on the economy which has seen us climb out of recession and achieve one of the fastest growth rates in Europe."

"It means that for 1983 prices will have risen more slowly than at any time since 1969," Mr King said.

The latest figures confirm inflationary pressures remain weak. Last month alone prices rose 0.4 per cent largely due to higher telephone charges and fresh-food prices although this was partly offset by price cuts for wine and second-hand cars.

However, the year-on-year inflation rate is still expected to edge up ahead because of the favourable trend in the same period last year.

Prices fell last December, helped by a 2 per cent cut in the mortgage rate, so even if prices showed no increase at all this month, the 12-month rate will still rise.

Officials expect inflation by the end of the year to be running a little above five per cent and comfortably in line with the Government's predictions.

However, international comparisons show that Britain is roughly in line with the average in other industrialized countries of 5.2 per cent and some important competitors are doing much better. Inflation in the United States is 2.9 per cent and only 2.6 per cent in West Germany.

The importance of keeping inflation down if Britain is to compete in world markets - suggests that the Lebanese Government is now anxious to see just how far Syria and its allies are prepared to go in supporting the Gemayel regime. They may well be doing so with the encouragement of the Americans, whose military confrontation with Syria has been in danger of getting out of control. Colonel Simon Kassis, the

head of Lebanon's military intelligence, has been in Damascus for discussions with his Syrian opposite number and the highly charged rhetoric that Lebanon's allegedly unbreakable ceasefire permitted the authorities to reopen Beirut airport for the first time this month.

The truce had been agreed at a long meeting in Damascus between leaders of at least three of the militia groups which have been fighting around the airport and in the mountains east of Beirut.

The Syrian orientation of the ceasefire and the Lebanese leader's almost unprecedented visit to Libya - at Colonel Gaddafi's own request - suggests that the Lebanese Government is now anxious to see just how far Syria and its allies are prepared to go in supporting the Gemayel regime.

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Art treasure talks collapse

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent



The Duke of Devonshire offered 74 drawings.

left with after tax. Numerous different formulas for calculating this figure have apparently been explored without result.

The final move seems to have been the biggest tax-free offer the museum could stretch to after taking a very deep breath.

Nevertheless, in making their valuation on behalf of the Duke, Christie's must have taken full account of the purchasing power of the £1. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu - though he agreed that the museum had recently paid a very high price for a drawing.

He said that the difference had nothing to do with the "Getty factor" - the enormous purchasing power of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu - though he agreed that the museum had recently paid a very high price for a drawing.

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Training scheme for Services fails to attract young entrants

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The armed Forces Youth training scheme launched in August has so far been a flop with only about 600 people being accepted to fill the 1,900 places which were being offered this autumn.

According to latest statistics from the Ministry of Defence, 281 people have joined the scheme and a further 331 have been accepted but have not yet started training.

Under the scheme, young people aged 16 and 17 are offered a year in the Armed Forces during which they do basic training and have the opportunity of training in specific trades. They wear uniform and are subject to service discipline, but are entitled to leave the service at any time after giving 14 days' notice.

There appear to have been two main obstacles to the services' endeavours to fill the 1,900 places. One is that the trainees receive only £25 a week, from which £10 is deducted to cover the cost of food and accommodation.

It had originally been planned that when the scheme was in full operation, probably by about the middle of next year, 2,500 places would be offered. It now seems highly unlikely that this will be achieved unless the scheme is modified.

The National Association of Schoolteachers/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT) is better disposed towards the idea. The present stumbling block to agreement on the main professional grade is the question of how to assess teachers for it.

The NAS/UWT is in favour of "positive" assessment. Teachers would have to match certain criteria and that would be done by a panel of teachers and advisers. The NUT wants "negative" assessment, which means that all would pass through to the main grade automatically unless the local authority could prove them incompetent.

Mr Joanna Davies, mother of NUJ chapel (chairman of the office branch) at the Dimbleby papers, said last night that the High Court had decided was "secondary action" were confident that Mr Dimbleby would not seek a fresh injunction.

He is a reasonable man and he is aware of his public image.

I do not think he would conduct a personal vendetta against us, he is not that vindictive.

The NUJ members started the action because Mr Dimbleby had transferred the printing of his papers from his own office to the non-union TBF Printers in Nottingham, associated with T. Bailey Forman, with whom the NUJ had a five-year dispute.

The High Court and subsequently the Court of Appeal ruled that the two companies were separate legal entities and that the action being taken by the journalists was "secondary" and therefore illegal.

The union is arguing that the courts have misinterpreted the labour laws and that the ruling that TBF Printers and T Bailey Forman are separate entities will lead to the establishment of numerous "companies of convenience".

Journalists will continue strike

Journalists at the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* yesterday decided to continue their strike despite a decision by their national leaders to abide by the law and withdraw their instruction authorizing the stoppage (Barrie Clement writes).

The executive of the National Union of Journalists rescinded its strike order because it would

Heavy fines imposed on Warrington pickets

Heavy fines were imposed yesterday at Warrington magistrates' court on demonstrators involved in the violence outside the Messenger Group newspaper print works at Warrington Quay on the night of November 20.

Pickets who admitted using threatening words and behaviour were ordered to pay between £100 and £250 fines. Others were convicted of obstructing the highway.

One solicitor claimed that his two clients had been used as "cannon fodder" by the organizers of the picket.

Pickets convicted of using threatening behaviour and fined were: Christopher Thompson, aged 19, unemployed, of Sutton Mill, Telford, Shropshire, £200 with £25 costs; Daniel Salop, aged 19, a student, of Warrington, £200 with £25 costs; Graham Pier, aged 19, unemployed, of Warrington, £200 with £25 costs; Ronald Watson, aged

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Teachers closer to salary overhaul

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Plans to overhaul the salary structure of teachers took an important step forward this week when teachers' leaders agreed on a new entry grade for all new recruits.

At a private residential meeting in Manchester, teachers' union leaders and the local authority employers discussed the management's plans for a new structure that is designed to keep incompetent recruits from becoming fully fledged teachers.

Although both sides agreed on a new entry grade, no decision was reached as to whether it should last for two or three years. The management did accept that the new grade would involve spending more money on giving the new teachers a lighter teaching load in their first year as well as more professional support.

However, there was no agreement on some of the more controversial parts of the package, notably that the above average teacher should get accelerated promotion and that all teachers would get a job description. But it looks as though there will be agreement on the introduction of a main professional grade for teachers to which they would progress from the entry grades.

The earliest date for the introduction of a new salary structure would be 1985. Meanwhile, the National Union of Teachers, the biggest union with 250,000 members, is strongly opposed to accelerated promotion for the good teacher.

The National Association of Schoolteachers/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT) is better disposed towards the idea. The present stumbling block to agreement on the main professional grade is the question of how to assess teachers for it.

The NAS/UWT is in favour of "positive" assessment.

Teachers would have to match certain criteria and that would be done by a panel of teachers and advisers. The NUT wants "negative" assessment, which means that all would pass through to the main grade automatically unless the local authority could prove them incompetent.

Both unions are united in their resistance to a job description because of the employers' desire to incorporate such items as voluntary lunchtime duties.

The NAS/UWT says it is prepared to contemplate a separate contract for lunchtime supervision for those who wanted to do the duties.

The NUJ members started the action because Mr Dimbleby had transferred the printing of his papers from his own office to the non-union TBF Printers in Nottingham, associated with T. Bailey Forman, with whom the NUJ had a five-year dispute.

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Shaping up: Mr Ian McIntyre, a British Museum conservation officer, working on the eighth century York Helmet which is to go on display at York Castle Museum next year (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Draw ends Ribli's hopes of victory

By Harry Golombek

Zoltan Ribli, the young Hungarian grandmaster, saw his hopes of beating the former world champion Vassily Smyslov fade when the tenth game of their match in the Acorn Computers World championship semi-finals at the Great Eastern Hotel, in London, ended in a draw on Thursday.

In order for him to entertain any hope of saving the match Ribli, who had the white pieces, was bound to play for a win, being two points behind meant that only wins would enable him to escape losing the contest.

In fact, he never looked like winning. Indeed, when the middlegame was reached it was Smyslov who looked to have the winning chances since Ribli's method of developing his bishops was a rather unhappy one and his Queen's Bishop in particular was a useless piece.

However, Smyslov seemed well content with the draw. He offered an exchange of queens

on move 20, an offer which Ribli readily accepted, and a draw was agreed after thirty moves, making the score Smyslov 6, Ribli 4 and leaving the former world champion in the happy position of requiring only half a point to win the match.

Tenth game
Réti Opening
White Ribli, Black Smyslov

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.c4 Bb4 5.d4 d5 6.e3 Nf8 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.c5 Bb7 9.d5 Nc6 10.Bd2 Nf8 11.c6 Nc6 12.Bc3 Nf8 13.c7 Nc6 14.Qc2 Nf8 15.Qc3 Nc6 16.Qc2 Nf8 17.Qc3 Nc6 18.Qc2 Nf8 19.Qc3 Nc6 20.Qc2 Nf8 21.Qc3 Nc6 22.Qc2 Nf8 23.Qc3 Nc6 24.Qc2 Nf8 25.Qc3 Nc6 26.Qc2 Nf8 27.Qc3 Nc6 28.Qc2 Nf8 29.Qc3 Nc6 30.Qc2 Nf8 31.Qc3 Nc6 32.Qc2 Nf8 33.Qc3 Nc6 34.Qc2 Nf8 35.Qc3 Nc6 36.Qc2 Nf8 37.Qc3 Nc6 38.Qc2 Nf8 39.Qc3 Nc6 40.Qc2 Nf8 41.Qc3 Nc6 42.Qc2 Nf8 43.Qc3 Nc6 44.Qc2 Nf8 45.Qc3 Nc6 46.Qc2 Nf8 47.Qc3 Nc6 48.Qc2 Nf8 49.Qc3 Nc6 50.Qc2 Nf8 51.Qc3 Nc6 52.Qc2 Nf8 53.Qc3 Nc6 54.Qc2 Nf8 55.Qc3 Nc6 56.Qc2 Nf8 57.Qc3 Nc6 58.Qc2 Nf8 59.Qc3 Nc6 60.Qc2 Nf8 61.Qc3 Nc6 62.Qc2 Nf8 63.Qc3 Nc6 64.Qc2 Nf8 65.Qc3 Nc6 66.Qc2 Nf8 67.Qc3 Nc6 68.Qc2 Nf8 69.Qc3 Nc6 70.Qc2 Nf8 71.Qc3 Nc6 72.Qc2 Nf8 73.Qc3 Nc6 74.Qc2 Nf8 75.Qc3 Nc6 76.Qc2 Nf8 77.Qc3 Nc6 78.Qc2 Nf8 79.Qc3 Nc6 80.Qc2 Nf8 81.Qc3 Nc6 82.Qc2 Nf8 83.Qc3 Nc6 84.Qc2 Nf8 85.Qc3 Nc6 86.Qc2 Nf8 87.Qc3 Nc6 88.Qc2 Nf8 89.Qc3 Nc6 90.Qc2 Nf8 91.Qc3 Nc6 92.Qc2 Nf8 93.Qc3 Nc6 94.Qc2 Nf8 95.Qc3 Nc6 96.Qc2 Nf8 97.Qc3 Nc6 98.Qc2 Nf8 99.Qc3 Nc6 100.Qc2 Nf8 101.Qc3 Nc6 102.Qc2 Nf8 103.Qc3 Nc6 104.Qc2 Nf8 105.Qc3 Nc6 106.Qc2 Nf8 107.Qc3 Nc6 108.Qc2 Nf8 109.Qc3 Nc6 110.Qc2 Nf8 111.Qc3 Nc6 112.Qc2 Nf8 113.Qc3 Nc6 114.Qc2 Nf8 115.Qc3 Nc6 116.Qc2 Nf8 117.Qc3 Nc6 118.Qc2 Nf8 119.Qc3 Nc6 120.Qc2 Nf8 121.Qc3 Nc6 122.Qc2 Nf8 123.Qc3 Nc6 124.Qc2 Nf8 125.Qc3 Nc6 126.Qc2 Nf8 127.Qc3 Nc6 128.Qc2 Nf8 129.Qc3 Nc6 130.Qc2 Nf8 131.Qc3 Nc6 132.Qc2 Nf8 133.Qc3 Nc6 134.Qc2 Nf8 135.Qc3 Nc6 136.Qc2 Nf8 137.Qc3 Nc6 138.Qc2 Nf8 139.Qc3 Nc6 140.Qc2 Nf8 141.Qc3 Nc6 142.Qc2 Nf8 143.Qc3 Nc6 144.Qc2 Nf8 145.Qc3 Nc6 146.Qc2 Nf8 147.Qc3 Nc6 148.Qc2 Nf8 149.Qc3 Nc6 150.Qc2 Nf8 151.Qc3 Nc6 152.Qc2 Nf8 153.Qc3 Nc6 154.Qc2 Nf8 155.Qc3 Nc6 156.Qc2 Nf8 157.Qc3 Nc6 158.Qc2 Nf8 159.Qc3 Nc6 160.Qc2 Nf8 161.Qc3 Nc6 162.Qc2 Nf8 163.Qc3 Nc6 164.Qc2 Nf8 165.Qc3 Nc6 166.Qc2 Nf8 167.Qc3 Nc6 168.Qc2 Nf8 169.Qc3 Nc6 170.Qc2 Nf8 171.Qc3 Nc6 172.Qc2 Nf8 173.Qc3 Nc6 174.Qc2 Nf8 175.Qc3 Nc6 176.Qc2 Nf8 177.Qc3 Nc6 178.Qc2 Nf8 179.Qc3 Nc6 180.Qc2 Nf8 181.Qc3 Nc6 182.Qc2 Nf8 183.Qc3 Nc6 184.Qc2 Nf8 185.Qc3 Nc6 186.Qc2 Nf8 187.Qc3 Nc6 188.Qc2 Nf8 189.Qc3 Nc6 190.Qc2 Nf8 191.Qc3 Nc6 192.Qc2 Nf8 193.Qc3 Nc6 194.Qc2 Nf8 195.Qc3 Nc6 196.Qc2 Nf8 197.Qc3 Nc6 198.Qc2 Nf8 199.Qc3 Nc6 200.Qc2 Nf8 201.Qc3 Nc6 202.Qc2 Nf8 203.Qc3 Nc6 204.Qc2 Nf8 205.Qc3 Nc6 206.Qc2 Nf8 207.Qc3 Nc6 208.Qc2 Nf8 209.Qc3 Nc6 210.Qc2 Nf8 211.Qc3 Nc6 212.Qc2 Nf8 213.Qc3 Nc6 214.Qc2 Nf8 215.Qc3 Nc6 216.Qc2 Nf8 217.Qc3 Nc6 218.Qc2 Nf8 219.Qc3 Nc6 220.Qc2 Nf8 221.Qc3 Nc6 222.Qc2 Nf8 223.Qc3 Nc6 224.Qc2 Nf8 225.Qc3 Nc6 226.Qc2 Nf8 227.Qc3 Nc6 228.Qc2 Nf8 229.Qc3 Nc6 230.Qc2 Nf8 231.Qc3 Nc6 232.Qc2 Nf8 233.Qc3 Nc6 234.Qc2 Nf8 235.Qc3 Nc6 236.Qc2 Nf8 237.Qc3 Nc6 238.Qc2 Nf8 239.Qc3 Nc6 240.Qc2 Nf8 241.Qc3 Nc6 242.Qc2 Nf8 243.Qc3 Nc6 244.Qc2 Nf8 245.Qc3 Nc6 246.Qc2 Nf8 247.Qc3 Nc6 248.Qc2 Nf8 249.Qc3 Nc6 250.Qc2 Nf8 251.Qc3 Nc6 252.Qc2 Nf8 253.Qc3 Nc6 254.Qc2 Nf8 255.Qc3 Nc6 256.Qc2 Nf8 257.Qc3 Nc6 258.Qc2 Nf8 259.Qc3 Nc6 260.Qc2 Nf8 261.Qc3 Nc6 262.Qc2 Nf8 263.Qc3 Nc6 264.Qc2 Nf8 265.Qc3 Nc6 266.Qc2 Nf8 267.Qc3 Nc6 268.Qc2 Nf8 269.Qc3 Nc6 270.Qc2 Nf8 271.Qc3 Nc6 272.Qc2 Nf8 273.Qc3 Nc6 274.Qc2 Nf8 275.Qc3 Nc6 276.Qc2 Nf8 277.Qc3 Nc6 278.Qc2 Nf8 279.Qc3 Nc6 280.Qc2 Nf8 281.Qc3 Nc6 282.Qc2 Nf8 283.Qc3 Nc6 284.Qc2 Nf8 285.Qc3 Nc6 286.Qc2 Nf8 287.Qc3 Nc6 288.Qc2 Nf8 289.Qc3 Nc6 290.Qc2 Nf8 291.Qc3 Nc6 292.Qc2 Nf8 293.Qc3 Nc6 294.Qc2 Nf8 295.Qc3 Nc6 296.Qc2 Nf8 297.Qc3 Nc6 298.Qc2 Nf8 299.Qc3 Nc6 300.Qc2 Nf8 301.Qc3 Nc6 302.Qc2 Nf8 303.Qc3 Nc6 304.Qc2 Nf8 305.Qc3 Nc6 306.Qc2 Nf8 307.Qc3 Nc6 308.Qc2 Nf8 309.Qc3 Nc6 310.Qc2 Nf8 311.Qc3 Nc6 312.Qc2 Nf8 313.Qc3 Nc6 314.Qc2 Nf8 315.Qc3 Nc6 316.Qc2 Nf8 317.Qc3 Nc6 318.Qc2 Nf8 319.Qc3 Nc6 320.Qc2 Nf8 321.Qc3 Nc6 322.Qc2 Nf8 323.Qc3 Nc6 324.Qc2 Nf8 325.Qc3 Nc6 326.Qc2 Nf8 327.Qc3 Nc6 328.Qc2 Nf8 329.Qc3 Nc6 330.Qc2 Nf8 331.Qc3 Nc6 332.Qc2 Nf8 333.Qc3 Nc6 334.Qc2 Nf8 335.Qc3 Nc6 336.Qc2 Nf8 337.Qc3 Nc6 338.Qc2 Nf8 339.Qc3 Nc6 340.Qc2 Nf8 341.Qc3 Nc6 342.Qc2 Nf8 343.Qc3 Nc6 344.Qc2 Nf8 345.Qc3 Nc6 346.Qc2 Nf8 347.Qc3 Nc6 348.Qc2 Nf8 349.Qc3 Nc6 350.Qc2 Nf8 351.Qc3 Nc6 352.Qc2 Nf8 353.Qc3 Nc6 354.Qc2 Nf8 355.Qc3 Nc6 356.Qc2 Nf8 357.Qc3 Nc6 358.Qc2 Nf8 359.Qc3 Nc6 360.Qc2 Nf8 361.Qc3 Nc6 362.Qc2 Nf8 363.Qc3 Nc6 364.Qc2 Nf8 365.Qc3 Nc6 366.Qc2 Nf8 367.Qc3 Nc6 368.Qc2 Nf8 369.Qc3 Nc6 370.Qc2 Nf8 371.Qc3 Nc6 372.Qc2 Nf8 373.Qc3 Nc6 374.Qc2 Nf8 375.Qc3 Nc6 376.Qc2 Nf8 377.Qc3 Nc6 378.Qc2 Nf8 379.Qc3 Nc6 380.Qc2 Nf8 381.Qc3 Nc6 382.Qc2 Nf8 383.Qc3 Nc6 384.Qc2 Nf8 385.Qc3 Nc6 386.Qc2 Nf8 387.Qc3 Nc6 388.Qc2 Nf8 389.Qc3 Nc6 390.Qc2 Nf8 391.Qc3 Nc6 392.Qc2 Nf8 393.Qc3 Nc6 394.Qc2 Nf8 395.Qc3 Nc6 396.Qc2 Nf8 397.Qc3 Nc6 398.Qc2 Nf8 399.Qc3 Nc6 400.Qc2 Nf8 401.Qc3 Nc6 402.Qc2 Nf8 403.Qc3 Nc6 404.Qc2 Nf8 405.Qc3 Nc6 406.Qc2 Nf8 407.Qc3 Nc6 408.Qc2 Nf8 409.Qc3 Nc6 410.Qc2 Nf8 411.Qc3 Nc6 412.Q

Sex with children could happen to anyone accidentally, judge says

There were gasps of astonishment from a public gallery in the Central Criminal Court yesterday as a senior judge defended a man who had had sexual intercourse with a friend's seven-year-old daughter.

"It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone," Judge Gibbons said.

The judge, aged 71, who has two sons and a daughter, added: "This is, of course, a serious offence against a little child. I hope the public will not misunderstand me when I say that."

He said that he had considerable sympathy with William Watson-Sweeney, aged 38, a builder, said to have a serious drink problem.

"For some moments people like this lose their natural restraint," Judge Gibbons said.

Watson-Sweeney, of Vernon Road, Guildford, Surrey, admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl. His guilty plea to raping her was accepted.

He was further remanded in custody until Monday. "I want to see if there is some other punishment available rather



Judge Gibbons: "Restraints can be lost."

than prison". Judge Gibbons said.

Mr Philip Singer, for the prosecution, said that Watson-Sweeney met the child and his mother while shopping.

He had been drinking heavily and asked the girl whether she would help him with some household chores. When he got her to his bedroom he removed her clothes and had intercourse.

He gave her some sherry and took her home. The distressed

girl told her mother, who informed the police.

Watson-Sweeney at first told detectives: "You've got to be joking". But within minutes he broke down and confessed: "I must have been drinking too much."

"My God, I feel terrible about this. I wasn't legless, but I wasn't sober. She said she knew what mummies and daddies did in bedrooms."

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the defence, said that his client was "full of remorse and shame". The offence was an isolated one and the memory of it would remain with Watson-Sweeney and his family "for the rest of their lives". He realizes that he deserves everything he gets.

Mrs Brenda Bridge, the wife of the Dean of Guildford, the Very Rev Antony Bridge, was in court. She had been friendly with Watson-Sweeney and his wife, who have a younger son, and described them as a lovely family.

Judge Gibbons received considerable publicity two months ago after he criticized a jury for acquitting a young burglar. Three years earlier he condemned workers at Heathrow for their dishonesty.

Without the courage of Mrs Xuerb, aged 25, who was a "brave and highly intelligent young woman".

Sir James said that cases of

kidnap and blackmail were on the increase and there had to be sentences with a "deterrent effect".

Det Insp Brendan Gibbons, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch told the Central Criminal court that he had made extensive investigations into the case but could find "absolutely no evidence whatsoever that the boy had any political motive".

On the second day of his trial the boy changed his plea to guilty to sending an explosive device through the post. The charges alleging that he intended to injure the Prime Minister or any other person were left on the court file. Sentence was adjourned for a month for reports and the boy was granted bail.

The north London schoolboy aged 14 was "making a cry for help" when he posted a bomb to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on St Patrick's day, a detective said yesterday.

Dr Stanley Salmon and Mr Dennis Gale of the university's department of anatomy indicate that the main muscle protein, Myocin, has not matured properly in the diaphragms of babies that mysteriously stop breathing in their cots.

The researchers are using antibodies supplied by the Institut Pasteur in Paris, to analyse the protein in post mortem samples. The antibodies distinguish the immature form of myocin, with which the baby is born, from the adult form that should develop during the first months of life.

According to the Birmingham hypothesis, the diaphragm whose muscles control breathing, becomes susceptible to fatigue if the myocin does not mature fast enough. Then any additional stress, such as a cold, could make the diaphragm fail suddenly.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Death, based in London, has given Dr Salmon and Mr Gale a £21,500 grant to carry their research further over the next two years. Mr Gale emphasized that the project was intended only to identify an important molecular cause of cot deaths.

If myocin immaturity is indeed implicated, then more clinical work would be required to develop the discovery into a practical means of identifying babies at risk, who could be monitored closely.

Stephen Elliott, aged 16, was awarded £80,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday after being injured in an accident involving his father's lorry, in which he was a passenger.

He had a leg amputated after the accident, at East Bergholt, Essex, in December 1979, and suffered multiple fractures and lacerations which left him scarred for life.

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Magistrates studying jail sentences for drink drivers after Essex lead

By Kenneth Goeing

Magistrates throughout the country will have in mind the possibility of imposing deterrent sentences when dealing with drink driving cases after this week's sentences on nine drivers at Grays, Essex.

The Bench at Grays sent one man, who had a drink-driving conviction, to prison for six months during hearings on Thursday. Of the others, all first offenders, four were ordered to be detained in police cells for four days, the rest for two days each.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said: "I am sure it will have the effect intended. The prospect of loss of liberty will operate on people's minds, particularly in the Grays area". Mr Norman said there were no examples of other courts taking similar action, but the principle of imposing deterrent sentences for, for example, in cases of telephone box vandalism by young

offenders, in incidents of violence and in cases of shoplifting, was a well established one.

"I would have thought generally that this was publicly acceptable", he said.

Mr Norman said since the policy concerning drunk driving was announced after the Brewster Sessions in February, only one driver had appealed against a custodial sentence. His six months' imprisonment was reduced to three.

"If anyone should think the deterrent sentence is not a sound principle, they need not to appeal", he said.

The Department of Transport, which has launched its pre-Christmas campaign against drinking and driving said: "Our view is that we would rather people did not get into that position; it is only to be welcomed insofar as it might act as a further deterrent."

"This is the final deterrent". Mr Noad said of Thursday's sentences. "Maybe other areas are doing the same as us or are considering doing the same".

The whole point of the

Abandoned cars 'time bombs'

By Clifford Webb

Motoring Correspondent

The growing number of cars abandoned on Britain's streets because of stricter MOT enforcement are potential "time bombs" which sooner or later will kill drivers using them as playthings, the Automobile Association said yesterday.

To spotlight the danger, the association's *Drive* magazine carried out an experiment with a Toyota which had been left for months in a car park near Crawley, Sussex. With the fire brigade in attendance a match was applied to the interior upholstery.

This is the timetable of events which followed: 30 secs: heavy black smoke and flames.

2.5 mins: rubber pipe to petrol tank burns through and the escaping petrol/air mixture ignites in a plume of flame.

6 mins: windows and wind screen shatter. Flames increase dramatically as air rushes in.

7.5 mins: aerosol cans in the boot explode.

8.5 mins: 5 gallon can containing half a gallon of petrol explodes, shooting the can lid 40 yds and setting fire to grass and anything combustible in the vicinity.

10 mins: firemen move in with high pressure water hoses.

Drive comments: "In an average metropolitan street, the fire brigade would reckon to reach the scene before 16 minutes provided they were informed the moment the car caught fire. But, as our demonstration shows, 15 minutes is a long time in a blaze of this type. Imagine our Toyota in a crowded housing estate."

Mr Bob Deeman, director of cleansing for the London Borough of Haringey, said: "we have had injuries to kids playing with wrecked cars but so far nothing serious. My constant fear is that something really bad will happen. And I am talking about a death."

Haringey towed away 968 abandoned vehicles last year, an increase of 100 per cent in five years. That compares with 439 in Birmingham and 350 in Glasgow. *Drive* reports that the best councils take only two weeks but others take months

Horsewoman fined for smuggling dog

Miss Sheila Willcox, the leading horsewoman clung to her pet dog, Gip for company after a riding accident in Germany. She was so desperate to have the black, cross-bred Lurcher dog by her side that she persuaded friends to smuggle him back into Britain, bypassing quarantine rules and breaking the anti-rabies laws.

Miss Willcox, aged 51, four times Badminton winner, and the only woman ever to win in three successive years, yesterday admitted permitting the dog to be landed at Dover in contravention of the rabies laws, and was fined £500 and ordered to pay Gloucestershire county council's £40 prosecution costs.

Magistrates at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire were told that Miss Willcox of Shoberrow Hill, Stanton, Gloucestershire, was rebuilding her career after a fall in 1971 which left her partially paralysed, when a second accident happened last May.

She had gone to Germany for a dressage competition but fell again only days before com-

Halifax paper rebuked over Ripper victim

A complaint that a newspaper persisted in trying to question a surviving victim of the "Yorkshire Ripper" despite being asked not to do so was upheld by the Press Council yesterday.

The council agreed that, despite the newsworthiness of the distressing attack on Mrs Olive Smett of Boothtown, Halifax, it was wrong of the *Evening Courier* to persist when it was clear that she did not want to be interviewed by its staff.

Mr Harry Smett, her husband, complained to the Press Council that, despite requests to the editor to restrain them, reporters from the newspaper had consistently harassed his wife at her place of work, thereby putting her at risk.

Mr Dennis Taylor, the editor, said that he did not encourage his reporters to harass or intrude into privacy. He had no reason to suspect that Mrs Smett was reluctant to be interviewed. His under-

standing had been that it was Mr Smett who was trying to prevent an interview.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

Despite the newsworthiness of the distressing attack on Mrs Smett in August, 1975, it was wrong of the *Evening Courier* to persist in attempting to question her when it was clear that she did not want to be interviewed by its staff. As long ago as 1979 her husband had asked the editor to restrain them from harassing his wife again.

Later the reporter intruded into the canteen at the supermarket where she worked and improperly persisted in his attempts to obtain an interview despite it being made clear that he was unwelcome. This latest approach to her at her work place was clearly embarrassing to Mrs Smett although the Press Council is now satisfied that it jeopardized her employment.

The complaint against the *Evening Courier*, Halifax, is upheld.

The hearing was adjourned until February 2.

Mailcoach of the twentieth century

By Michael Horsfall

Like fresh-faced ghosts, three passengers leave the winter chill outside the Pack Horse Hotel in Louth, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, awaiting the postbus, just as their ancestors did two centuries before them.

The distinctive red and yellow 11-seat Dodge is a world away from the Royal Mail stage-coach which set off from the old coaching inn on the muddy road to London.

The area has seen a 67 per cent rise over a year in drink-driving cases, the national figure for convictions last year was 75,000, up 4,000 on 1981.

Mr Noad referred to a number of horrific accidents which appeared to have involved drunk drivers. Heavy traffic passes through the area, especially on the A13.

"This is the final deterrent", Mr Noad said of Thursday's sentences. "Maybe other areas are doing the same as us or are considering doing the same".

The whole point of the



All aboard: Passengers of the Louth postbus (Photograph: John Manning).

known to carry the occasional sheep and pick up prescriptions from the doctor for some of their passengers, and the postbus has been calcu-

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Israel denies offering safe conduct for evacuation of Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government yesterday stepped up its war of nerves against Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, by flatly denying that it had given any guarantee of safe conduct to the Greek authorities for his proposed evacuation from Tripoli.

The denial, which followed reports of contacts between Israel and Greece over the plan, was made by a senior Government official at a briefing for foreign journalists. "Israel did not give any commitment to anyone about anything," he said in answer to repeated questions.

The briefing, which came hours after Israel's fourth naval bombardment of PLO positions around the north Lebanon port, was apparently designed to maintain the high level of international apprehension surrounding the evacuation. Asked if the central thrust of Israel's policy was to keep the world guessing, the official acknowledged candidly: "Maybe that is the name of the game."

Despite the denial of contacts, direct or indirect, with the Greeks, it is still considered unlikely that Israel will launch any attack once Mr Arafat and his 4,000 men are on board their Greek vessels under escort from French and American

warships. But increased Israeli military action in Tripoli up until the final moment of embarkation is considered a firm possibility.

Yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, held private talks with Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, at which the subject of the evacuation is understood to have been discussed. Neither party would give any account of the meeting to the press.

Earlier, Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, played his part in the policy of attempting to prevent, or at least delay, the PLO guerrillas' departure by again expressing the hope that Western nations would not "assist the evacuation of the PLO with their weapons to other locations where they can continue their terror activities against Israel and non-Israelis."

The minister claimed that Israel was using diplomatic channels to try and persuade any nation preparing to assist in the evacuation to first get "a commitment from Arafat that he will lay down his arms and stop all terror activities."

Speaking after a memorial service for the 28 Israeli Druze Arabs so far killed in the French war ships would escort them to Lebanon for the rescue operation.

Anger at 190 pc inflation

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Israeli trade unionists yesterday launched a series of mass protest demonstrations directed at the Government's failure to solve the serious inflationary spiral now destined to produce an all-time record inflation rate between 190 and 200 per cent by the end of the year.

The three days of protest were prompted by the publication of official statistics showing that prices rose by 15.2 per cent during the single month of November, bringing to 40 per cent the erosion in wages registered over the past two months.

Despite the latest grim economic statistics, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Prime Minister, pledged publicly on Thursday that there would be no cutback in the costly programme of continuing to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The failure of his new Finance Minister, Mr Yigal Cohen-Orgad, to exercise restraint on runaway inflation is posing a growing threat to the

after details were leaked of his controversial scheme to switch the whole Israeli economy onto a US dollar basis.

But the claims did little to soften the effect of the latest price rises (including a 188 per cent increase in the cost of food products over the last 12 months), which, according to economic experts, means that the annual inflation rate for 1983 will be close to 200 per cent. This compares with recent government pledges that the rate of increase would soon be reduced, and inflation cut back to double figures.

During the past 11 months, prices in Israel have already risen by 160.5 per cent, ensuring that the annual figure will easily outstrip the previous record total of 132.9 per cent inflation reached in 1980 - also under a Likud government.

The new series of workers' demonstrations is just one of many pointers that the runaway rate of price increases is now beginning to threaten the whole social fabric of the country.

ANC man arrested in South Africa

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Five whites and an alleged black African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla have been arrested in the Johannesburg area. Major-General Frans Steenkamp, the head of the South African Security Police, said the whites, including two women, were arrested as a result of investigations after the conviction for high treason last month of Mr Carl Niehaus, aged 23, a white student, and his fiancée, Miss Jansie Lourens. They are being held incommunicado under the Internal Security Act.

General Steenkamp described the black guerrilla as a well-known and trained ANC terrorist and said arms, including Soviet-made limpet mines, had been seized. Last week, Security Police announced the arrest of two suspected ANC guerrillas after a shootout in the Coloured Johannesburg suburb of Eldorado Park.

Meanwhile, security was stepped up in Johannesburg yesterday after a bomb blast on Thursday evening in a city-centre office of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Seven blacks, women office cleaners and watchmen were slightly injured in the explosion which occurred only a few minutes after the evening rush hour.

It was the third attack on government offices in Johannesburg - all carried out with limpet mines - this month.

• Sea change: Signs apologizing for apartheid will be put up around whites-only children's paddling pools on the beach front at Durban, South Africa's main coastal resort.

Vatican attacks boxing as coma victim worsens

Milan (Reuter) - The Vatican newspaper yesterday questioned the morality of boxing, as the condition of an Italian fighter who collapsed last weekend deteriorated.

An editorial in the *Osservatore Romano*, citing the case of Salvatore La Serra, who is in a coma, said no sport or spectacle could be accepted by a civilized conscience if it put human life at stake.

Other sports, such as car racing and mountaineering, were arguably more dangerous,



Many a slip: Reaching for a woman customer's lighter, Sydney waiter Richard Daldini fell from the Harbourwatch Restaurant's balcony and was left hanging 50ft up

Global abuse of journalists continues

By David Cross

The International Press Institute, the watchdog of press freedom, has issued more protests about abuses against journalists this year than at any time in its history.

Most of Eastern Europe continues to jail journalists and writers, as does most of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. "Some do not even bother with the luxury of prisons; some prefer more direct measures like the bullet."

Newsmen and publishers have found that speaking the truth is not a guaranteed right of the individual, but something to be suppressed or distorted, the institute says. The signatories to the United Nations Charter on

Human Rights or the Helsinki Agreement are breaking their word. "Today, only a small part of the globe can boast that free speech is respected and honoured. The rest of the world is gagged."

The institute also criticizes the free press for reporting too little about abuses against journalists. "Those governments who are the worst offenders are often guided by the reactions of the outside world," it says.

The report also singles out South Africa as a country where press freedom is under constant

attack. More than 60 per cent of the editors of the main Sunday newspapers have been convicted or threatened with prosecution.

In many other countries, journalists face other dangers than their flight rarely comes to light. "Many governments around the world continue to dispose of troublesome reporters silently. "Some are 'disappeared', never to return, while others are placed in hospitals for the insane, only to be released when they are 'cured'."

The report also singles out

South Africa as a country where press freedom is under constant

West sees hope in Pretoria's Angola offer

From Zoriana Pysarowsky, New York

The South African proposal for disengagement of its forces in southern Angola has been met with surprise and scepticism by black African countries, which saw it as a ruse to gain Western sympathy. The West, however, thought it offered possibilities for settling the issue of Cuban troops in Angola.

In a letter to the United Nations on Thursday, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said Pretoria was prepared to disengage its troops on condition that Angola provides assurances that it would not exploit the situation.

This meant that neither Angola's forces, nor Cuban troops protecting the MPLA regime, nor Swapo guerrillas operating from Angola with the aim of securing Namibia's independence, could make moves in the area. Although it was not spelt out, the offer sounded much like a proposal for a demilitarized zone.

The proposal in itself was not new, since it had been the subject of negotiations between South Africa and Angola which broke down earlier this year. South African officials said the date set to begin disengagement, January 31, was negotiable and meant to give impetus to a resumption of talks.

The offer came as the Security Council met at Angola's request to consider South Africa's occupation of southern Angola. Africans saw it as a pre-emptive move to escape serious calls for sanctions and reduce Western pressure for a Namibian settlement.

But the proposal fits neatly with attempts by the five-member Western contact group to place the removal of South African forces from southern Angola within the context of Cuban withdrawal. Angola has rejected the idea of connecting a Namibian settlement with the departure of Cuban troops and, by another name, it would seem to make it more palatable.

South Africa has said it will not give up Namibia unless it has an undertaking that the Cubans will leave. Although only the United States supports it in this position, many other countries are privately convinced that the two issues must go hand-in-hand if there is to be a Namibian solution.

The Angolan initiative in the Security Council is considered to be part of a domestic campaign aimed at rallying Angolans against the rebel Unita organization, which operates in the south with South African support and poses a threat to the stability of the government in Luanda.

While South Africa has never officially admitted that its forces are entrenched in southern Angola, Western analysts estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 troops are in the area.

Killings in Indonesia 'should be over now'

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

The spate of summary killings of alleged criminals which human rights groups claim have left up to 4,000 dead in Indonesia this year were supposed to have ended in August, Mr Mochar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister said yesterday.

Mochar, speaking at a press briefing, said: "The official position is that these things were not supposed to have occurred after the President's (National Day) speech in August when he said these measures have to be carried out within the dictates of the law."

As a chairman, I have lost", he told the congress, "but this defeat could be turned into a victory if the association takes control of its own fate."

The film-makers responded well to his appeal. A Central Committee secretary, Mr Waldemar Swirgon, had earlier told the film-makers that it would be unwise to reelect Mr Wajda - whose support for Solidarity has always been strongly stated - that they should avoid political statements of support for the banned Writers' Union for example, and should have a large Communist Party representation. Instead, only five out of the 37 main board members are in the party and they - including the vice-chairman, Mr Jerzy Hoffman and the president, Mr Jerzy Kawalec - were chosen more for their acknowledged skill as film-makers rather than for their political status.

One young film director said that as the majority of Poles were believing Catholics, it was only appropriate that a production unit be set up to make films on church themes.

Party directors opposed this but the new chairman of the association, Mr Janusz Majewski, said that the proposal should be put to a vote and the suggestion was carried overwhelmingly.

Whether the Government will make funds available for such an idea seems doubtful however - it is difficult to imagine a project that would upset the hardline Marxists in Prague and Moscow.

The main hardliner at the congress, Mr Bohdan Poreba, criticised Mr Wajda and the presentation of a prize to him by young film-makers.

No evidence Andropov is working again

Moscow (Reuter) - US and West European diplomats say they have no evidence that President Yuri Andropov is back at work after his four-month absence. They denied reports from Washington that western embassies in Moscow had already sighted him.

"A Politburo motorcade has been seen driving regularly to and from the Kremlin but so far there is no evidence that Andropov is inside it", one diplomat said.

A senior Communist Party spokesman, Mr Leonid Zamyanin, said last week that the 69-year-old President was recovering from an illness and already working again. Speculation now is whether he will appear at a plenum of the party's Central Committee on December 26 or 27.

Cocaine haul in New York

New York (AP) - A record 1,600 lb of cocaine with an estimated street value of £110m was seized and three men arrested in what the authorities said was the largest drug seizure ever in the New York city area.

The cocaine, described as high-quality Colombian, was found in duffel bags and boxes when a combined federal, state and city drug task force arrested the three men late on Thursday in Queens Borough.

Minister quits

Santiago (Reuter) - Chile's Foreign Minister Senor Miguel Schweizer, resigned after 10 months defending the record of President Augusto Pinochet's military government. Last week the UN General Assembly passed its annual censure vote on Chile's human rights record.

Envoy moved

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Ambassador to Angola, Mr Vadim Loginov, has been relieved of his duties and transferred to another post, Tass said. He is replaced by Mr Arnold Kalinin, ambassador to Portugal between 1974 and 1982.

Basque blasts

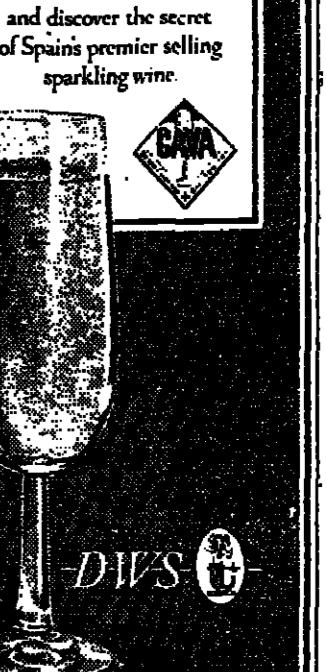
Las Bardenas (Reuter) - An officer and a soldier were slightly injured when two bombs planted by suspected guerrillas went off at a military shooting range near this northern Spanish town.

Ice breaker

Yamoussoukro (AP) - Ghanaians working in the Ivory Coast gave an airport welcome to Ghana's military leader Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings who arrived for talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, their first bilateral contact. Until now both have regarded each other with open suspicion.

The secret of great Methode Champenoise has always been kept in the dark.

Look for the black bottle and discover the secret of Spain's premier selling sparkling wine.



Mauroy intervenes in car dispute as recession bites deeper in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The recession, which came later to France than to most other industrialized countries, is finally beginning to pinch, causing unions and management to harden their positions and the Government to quake.

The announcement on Thursday by the car manufacturer Peugeot-Talbot that it is to close indefinitely from Monday its factory at Poissy, outside Paris, where workers have been on strike for the past week in protest against redundancy plans, is almost certainly a sign of worse to come on the industrial front.

Peugeot, France's largest privately-owned car manufacturer, which is expected to lose 2 billion francs (£170m) this year, took the decision to lay-off its 17,000 workers at Poissy in an attempt to force the Government to accept its proposals for nearly 3,000 compulsory redundancies at the factory.

The redundancies are part of an overall slimming plan for the company involving the loss of nearly 10 per cent of its 18,000 workforce.

It is a sign of the gravity with which the Government is treating the dispute that M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has himself decided to take the matter in hand. Emergency meetings were taking place between the Peugeot management and the Government yesterday.

The long-brewing crisis in the car industry could not have come to a head at a worse time for the Government. Within the last week it has been severely attacked for the alleged inadequacies of its industrial policy by two groups from which it might have expected more

support - the Socialist CFDT union, and the Communist Party, which only a fortnight ago signed a new agreement with the Socialists pledging greater loyalty to the Government.

Describing the Government's industrial policy as "secretive, inflexible and incoherent," M Edmond Maire, the moderate general-secretary of the CFDT, accused the Government of following up its "magnificent promises" with silence. "They say nothing, they announce no plans, no schemes, no figures. They keep the unions in complete ignorance."

The Government was spending huge sums amounting to 52 billion francs (£4.300m) this year to try to stop the industrial decline, but nothing was being done to prepare for the future, he complained. He feared that the Government's "flight into the dark" would lead workers "to despair and revolt".

The CFDT's cry of alarm is not totally devoid of self-interest, however. The union has been much criticized for being a "toady" of the Government, and at the social security elections last October, it saw itself drop from its traditional number two position in the trade union hierarchy to number three. It has lost 15 per cent of its membership over the past year.

It was also important for the CFDT that the Communists and the Communist-led CGT union should not be seen to be the only defenders of workers' jobs which are now being lost in the industrial sector at a rate of 30,000 a month, twice the rate at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, lay-offs are ex-

pected soon in coal, steel, construction, engineering, chemicals and textile industries.

A few days earlier, M Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, wrote to M Laurent Fabius, the Industry Minister, saying that it was "high time" that the Government followed its words by actions, and showed "greater rigour in keeping its promises in the crucial field of industry."

As M Fabius was away, it was M Max Gallo, the official Government spokesman, who launched the counter-attack. "To believe and to make others believe that you can always prevent redundancies, keep non-profitable businesses going, and accept ever greater losses, is to render a disservice to the workers, firms and the country, and disarm France in the tough field of international competition," he insisted.

The Government's reluctance to help lame ducks has also been referred to recently by M Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister. "Some enterprises are declining, others are being born. The longer you keep the former in an oxygen tent, the more it will cost the taxpayer, and the less money there will be for new projects. And at the end of the day, instead of having 100 unemployed, you will have 200 unemployed," he said.

Figures announced yesterday show that the number of unemployed rose by 3 per cent last month, having been kept stable at around 2 million or just under 9 per cent of the workforce for more than a year.

The Government continues to insist that it will take what measures are necessary to prevent unemployment rising

more than a hundred Western campaigners this year.

Mrs Medvedkova said the authorities were apparently taking belated revenge for an incident last May when three founder members of the Greenham Common women's movement visiting Moscow took her with them to a meeting with the officials to listen to an exposition of the Group of Trust's aims and philosophy.

The Soviet group also said that any statements from prison by members should not be taken as genuine "if they conflict with our present convictions". This follows the release of a purported letter of repentance written by Mr Radzinsky from Siberian exile.

His book, *Take The Nation In Your Hands* (the paper's main advertising slogan) was banned by the court, but after the appeal was lodged, the order was rescinded.

Mr George Bobolas, publisher of *Ethnos*, who has business links with the Soviet Union, and the paper's editor, Mr Alekos Filippopoulos, were awarded damages of £110 each.

The committee, which includes journalists, authors, churchmen and scientists known for their concern about human rights violations, will have access to military and Government records in order to determine what happened to the missing persons.

The commission will have no power to try those responsible for the murders, but has been instructed to submit all evidence of possible crimes to the courts. It is to produce a report on its findings in six months' time.

Argentine human rights groups have documented the disappearance of more than 7,000 people who are believed to have been kidnapped and killed by Government security forces during what the military has called its "dirty war" against left-wing subversion from 1976 to 1981.

But relatives of disappeared people and human rights activists believe the figure of missing people is closer to 30,000, due to the many incompletely documented cases and instances of disappeared persons whose families did not report them as missing out of fear.

Meanwhile, former President Isabel Peron, who was overthrown by the 1976 military coup, prepared to leave Argentina after a one-week visit during which she met President Alfonsin and began what is expected to be a thorough purge of the Peronist party which she formally heads.

Senora Peron was flying back to Madrid for what she promised would be a brief stay before returning to take full charge of the movement she inherited from President Juan Peron.

Iran's war fever fuels Iraqi panic

By Richard Dowden

As the Gulf war grinds through its fourth year, the Iraqis are seeking peace at almost any price, short of capitulation but Iran's internal politics dictate that it must continue until the Baghdad Government falls.

The war is going well for Iran. It can sustain a steady pressure on Iraq, draining its resources and forcing it to be dependent on the Gulf States. Meanwhile the heavy casualties - some estimate that Iran has lost nearly a quarter of a million dead - help to maintain the revolutionary fervour and concentrate the minds of the people on an external enemy. The Khomeini regime has invested a lot in the war to end it with anything less than the fall of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

It is sometimes suggested that the return of the Iranian Army from the front would create problems for the regime; but the troops have been purged and indoctrinated and the political capital accrued from the defeat of Iraq could keep the revolution further without undermining their own position.

The war

Japanese conservatives head for victory despite vague poll predictions

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Politicians remained remarkably vague over just how well Japan's ruling Conservative Liberal Democrats (CDP) will perform when voters go to the polls in Sunday's general election, the first in three and a half years, as candidates took advantage of the last few hours of an indecisive 15-day campaign.

What is virtually certain is that Japan will wake up on Monday to find the conservatives still in charge. Opposition parties are expected to face mixed results, with the biggest, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), battling uphill. Japan, therefore, will continue to pursue the increasingly outward-looking and nationalistic policies being shaped by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister.

Indeed, the election has taken on the look of an internal LDP

referendum on national policies. Most importantly, the results will probably foreshadow Mr Nakasone's chances of remaining as leader in a party vote late next year.

Mr Nakasone has campaigned hard to project a statesmanlike image emphasising diplomatic accomplishment since coming to office a year ago. Two days before the vote, the Prime Minister announced he will visit China in March. The visit is timed significantly between an exchange of official visits by US and Chinese leaders.

The strategy may work. Mr Nakasone modestly claims that his party will achieve at least a simple majority in the election. Most surveys say the LDP, in power since 1955, will come close to a stable majority of

270 seats in the 511-member Lower House allowing control of most important committees.

This compares with 286 LDP seats when Mr Nakasone called the election to end more than a month of parliamentary deadlock which followed the Oct 12 conviction of Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, on bribery charges in the Lockheed trial.

Projections of the results generally have allowed for such wide margins of error as to make them meaningless. The *Izahi Shinbun*, for example, a harsh critic of Mr Nakasone and Mr Tanaka, who controls the biggest faction in the LDP, said yesterday that the LDP would win 278 seats. This is the highest among the polls published so far, but it is hedged within a margin of 267 to 289.

Indeed, the election has taken on the look of an internal LDP

US accepts Australian nuclear arms curb

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Canberra believes the United States has accepted its position that nuclear-armed warships will be allowed to use Australian dry docks only in emergencies. But talks with Britain have not been so fruitful.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said on Thursday that, after telephone discussions between Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister and his British and US counterparts, differences with Washington had been resolved.

However, talks between Canberra and London had not been so successful after the dispute over the ban on the British aircraft carrier Invincible using the navy dry-dock at Garden Island, in Sydney Harbour. Invincible now seems certain to go to Singapore for repairs. The ship is scheduled to spend Christmas in Australia.

"I would think in respect of the United States the matter is resolved — they understand and there will be no problems there. There's a bit more discussion going on with the United Kingdom. This matter will be resolved in a way which is totally satisfactory to our allies and to us, without any change in principle."

"These lurid suggestions that our alliances in some way or another are threatened are just hogwash."

Mr Scholes said he had initiated the talks with Mr Heseltine, the British Defence Secretary and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, to discuss "the means by which the existing guidelines on visits by allied naval vessels can be developed to take account of special requirements for dry-docking."

The talks were preliminary and would be followed by others between officials from the three countries.

On Thursday Mr Scholes visited the Invincible and lunched with her captain and the British High Commissioner, Mr John Mason. Afterwards, Mr Scholes blamed the media and the federal opposition for the problems over the issue of dry-docking nuclear-armed vessels.

Treasure chest

Tokyo (AP) — A bakery owner, sifting through boxes in a Tokyo dump, discovered 50m yen (£150,000) worth of diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and rubies discarded in error by a jeweler's staff. His reward for turning them in was £15,000.

Panda prizes

Peking (Reuters) — Chinese peasants are being offered rewards of up to 500 yuan (£175) for saving starving giant pandas, the *China Daily* reported. The reward is about double the annual income of the average peasant.

India's cars to lose their 1950s look

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The look of India's roads is about to suffer a drastic change. "It is a revolution", exclaimed one of the senior civil servants who is masterminding it.

At present the cars on streets here look as though they might have popped out of a film made in the 1950s. If you remember the Morris Oxford of that era you have the image of the Ambassador, the most popular transport in the country. Indeed the only car made here that comes near to looking comfortably the full weight of an Indian family.

The car is fundamentally a small Suzuki, and is being manufactured in cooperation with Japanese. It has disc brakes, front wheel drive, a modern wedge shape and a petrol consumption which is half that of the "gas-guzzlers" at present on the road.

Though not officially announced, both the other major car manufacturers hope to be able to launch new fuel-efficient models shortly. Hindustan Motors, the manufacturer of the Ambassador, are expecting to produce a vehicle with engine and transmission by the Japanese firm Inzu, and a body like the Vauxhall produced by General Motors in England.

Premier Motors in Bombay, who produce the Fiat, are also in talks with foreign manufacturers to produce a new version. Even Standard Motors in Madras, who used to produce the Triumph-based model, still have a motor car production licence and may be tempted into the field by the lifting of price control which has accompanied the new policy.

The civil servants and their political masters certainly hope so. It is claimed by the car manufacturers that they were inhibited from modernizing their model lines by stringent price control in the past.

The Government would like to see what happened in the tractor industry repeated with the cars. There more than 10 firms entered the market when price control was lifted. The intense competition created its own price controls, but at a realistic level.

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THE TIMES DIARY

No trouble brewing

It is disappointing to learn that the England cricketers will not have to confess to hopeless alcohol addiction to obtain a foreigners' drinking permit when they visit the Islamic state of Pakistan in the New Year.

"That's rubbish," the inappropriately named spokesman for the Test and County Cricket Board, Peter Lush said.

In fact the lads are in for something of a treat. A man whose judgement in such matters can be relied on, told me: "Muree beer is a rather strong, and very tasty, lager. The Pakistanis grew it in Muree, in North-West Frontier Province, officially for export and for sale in tourist hotels. You can also buy it illegally, in places which also give you green cardamom to take the smell off your breath."

Vat VI IX

The same traveller swears that there is a brand of South American whisky which boasts on the label "Brewed in the cellars of Buckingham Palace by George VI himself".

Is the Woodcock Club the most exclusive in sport? To become a member, you must not only gun down two of these whirling game birds almost simultaneously, with a left and a right, but must also have two independent witnesses to the misfire. New members used to get a free bottle of cherry brandy after their first double slaying, but the liquor company stopped that little number earlier in the year.

Tackled swiftly

There are about a dozen new rugby books in the shops at present, all the fruits of the usual protracted agonies. It takes a man like Andy Ripley to write a book in one afternoon. Ripley, that genial and eccentric telegraph pole, the Rosslyn Park and former England No. 8, wrote his book after lunch on a Thursday recently. It is full of his likes and dislikes, scraps of poetry and thoughts about the game.

Big Andy is cheerfully convinced it will never be published. Our rugby correspondent, David Hands, Liked it, and said it was like *A Spaniard in the Works*, a book by a non-rugby player called John Lennon. "It's not as good as that," said Ripley.

Heresy

In India, the three great concerns of life are politics, religion and cricket. The boundaries between them have never been clearly defined. After India's debacle in the fifth Test against the West Indies at Calcutta, the matter was raised in Parliament, with Suresh Kalmadi calling for the resignation of Mr N. K. P. Salve as president of the Indian cricket board of control. Mr Salve, who is also Minister of State for Steel and Mines, has clearly been getting his priorities wrong.

BARRY FANTONI

"What you think Luigi - maybe it's witchcraft?"

Doc and Cop

Managers: I am afraid that associating Tommy Docherty with a vacant managerial job is hardly front page stuff. Still, the current speculation linking him with the vacant Stoke has the redeeming novelty of placing Steve Coppell as his number 2. Needless to say, perhaps, Coppell himself had not heard a thing about it all, but he thought it was a jolly good idea anyway.

Docherty, brash motivator, and Coppell, thoughtful graduate, have always got on well. Coppell wonders if the milk and cheese tastes might not be more like nitric acid and glycerine in partnership. So he'd like to work with the Doc in double harness? "I don't think anyone has ever managed to put Tommy Docherty in a harness."

Quo of the week: "It is strange, but I guess I could earn more money in amateur athletics than I do in pro football": Renaldo Nehemiah, wide receiver for San Francisco 49ers, and world record holder for high hurdles, banned from amateur athletics because of his "professionalism".

More managers: Final proof of the supremacy of the cult of manager comes in *Match* magazine. I spent much of my childhood scoring goals against the garage door when I was Roy of the Rovers, but *Match's* hero, Harry Cannon, is "boss of once great Stanlion Town whose attempts to clear his name following the disgrace of a bribe scandal have touched a raw nerve with the underworld".

"Oh Lord," said Cannon, at the end of the last episode. "This whole damnable business has turned me into a murderer."

All grand stuff, but do the kids who read it spend their days sitting in imaginary dug-outs, shouting, pointing and chewing gum?

Footnote: "There is no crisis at Arsenal," Tommy Caton.

Simon Barnes

The Horse-traders' Handicap

by Julian Haviland

The struggle for the chairmanship of the Select Committee on Defence has entertained spectators at Westminster this week and some of the participants - cheerfully mopping their bleeding noses yesterday - enjoyed it too.

But beneath the rivalries a serious question was asked: and the answer given will not help Parliament's reputation. It is that backbench members are powerless to fill even important backbench posts with candidates of their choice if the Government is determined to prevent them.

On Thursday the Prime Minister, through the exertions of the Government Chief Whip Mr John Wakeham, succeeded in imposing on the Defence Committee, against the will of the majority of its members, the chairman of her choice, Sir Humphrey Atkins.

As a former Northern Ireland Secretary, in daily contact for two and a half years with senior figures in the armed services, Sir Humphrey has been more closely concerned with defence matters than his critics have allowed. He may prove more expert and less compliant than they expect.

But Mrs Thatcher, who had to deploy all her powers of patronage to put Sir Humphrey in place, did not do so to strengthen a committee which may well ask awkward questions when the Treasury next

raids the defence budget or when the costs of the Trident programme start to swell.

The new departmental select committees were created by the last Parliament as a shining weapon for MPs to use to prod ministers and Whitehall. But they expired at the election and there was a six-month delay before they were reconstituted this week.

There are signs that ministers and those who advise them think that the best time to hobbles the committees is at the outset, by interfering with the choosing of members by the nominally independent Committee of Selection. Even then, an all-party committee may learn to embarrass ministers if a strong chairman, respected by all members, can make a team of them. So, better to fix the chairmanship.

This time the fixing took some doing. At first the Committee of Selection, striving to meet its obligations to reflect the balance of parties in the House, nominated seven Conservatives and four Opposition MPs. Atkins was no doubt his first choice. Two other Conservatives, Michael Mates and Michael Marshall, had backing in the Conservative group. Marshall was preferred by the three Labour men and the Social Democrat, who agreed to vote together.

The Opposition Chief Whip, Michael Cox, told that Atkins was

the Downing Street favourite, tried to induce the Labour men to vote for him, but had dusty answers. Cox, his own patronage, had his own candidates for the chair of other select committees which, by agreement with Wakeham, were to go to Labour. But if he and his side let Wakeham down, the deal will be off.

Wakeham was active on another front. He sent an emissary to James Moloney, leader of the Official Ulster Unionists, who was aggrieved that his party had no member on any committee. An understanding was reached that Conservative votes would be used to take the Social Democrat, John Cartwright, off the Ulster Unionist, Ken Maginnis, instead.

Maginnis does not admire Atkins but was expected to learn to do so quite quickly. These prevarications proved unnecessary. The Conservatives solved their own problem in the end, and outsiders did not count. They decided to reach agreement inside the party caucus and, once *The Times* had revealed the goings-on, this course became imperative. From that moment Atkins could not lose. The squabble was to be kept in the family, and in the Conservative family, what mother says still counts.

But it was hard pounding. The four Tory Indians met to choose one of their three would-be chiefs. Two were for Atkins; one each for Mates

The author is Political Editor of *The Times*

David Hewson

Should we then ban News at Ten?

Parliament rarely looks its best when duty demands that it dictate what people see and hear. In evidence, I submit the following exchange, from the third sitting of the Standing Committee C on the Video Recordings Bill:

Mr Graham Bright (Luton, South): There would be considerable scope for argument as to how far that [an amendment which would replace 'animal' with 'sentient being'] would extend down the animal kingdom, and even whether it would extend to plant life. I am advised, for example, that an amoeba might be considered to be sentient on the grounds that it would move away from noxious chemicals... Similarly... I am told that a plant will respond to the force of gravity; if it is turned upside down, the stem and roots will start to grow in the opposite direction.

The Conservative Establishment, tough as it has proved, has not won the whole game. The Prime Minister's plan is that Atkins should have a more senior post, the chairmanship of the Liaison Committee, which controls the Budget of the select committee and decides which estimates are debated in Parliament.

Mr Bright: There is an element of force that is unnatural if one turns a plant upside down.

And elsewhere.

Mr McLennan: The second purpose of the amendment is to make it clear beyond doubt... that the exclusion is not intended to apply to violent acts of nature whose victims are not sentient beings. I shall cite two examples. I do not believe that a nature film showing the eruption of Mount St Helens, which is a violent act of nature, is the sort of thing that we wish to catch by the clause. The bulldozing of a high rise tower block may be described as an act of gross violence, but that is not likely to be caught by the clause. My amendment would preclude any doubt on that score.

Standing Committee C is not, so far as it can be ascertained, some elaborate joke being perpetrated by Mr Tom Stoppard, or a festive attempt at a Westminster pantomime.

Yet something very odd is clearly happening when a serious, and, in most quarters, welcome attempt to ban the vides nasty suddenly turns into a debate on cruelty to amoebas and beastliness to plants. To gauge just how odd, let us consider some of the items which could be banned from videos on sale to the public if the Bill, as now drafted, becomes law.

There would be no "mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence" between animals, consenting or otherwise. One presumes that this would not be communicated to the beasts of bush and jungle, but only to the film-makers who would no longer be permitted to document their behaviour until Leo turned vegetarian. While it would still be legal to hunt and kill a fox, the criminal law could be upon you were you to film the event and offer the result for sale to the general public. They could have watched the whole thing live, if you will pardon the expression, in the first place.

Naturally, if this discreet veil is to

be drawn over the cruelty of animals to one another, it will also be extended to homo sapiens. Attract as this may seem, there are one or two problems. The most important is that, whatever Standing Committee C may decree, human beings undoubtedly are cruel to one another on a regular basis, as any news bulletin shows.

On the present basis, anyone could be open to prosecution for taping a suitable edition of the television news, the content of which is controlled under different regulations, and then offering it for sale as a home video. ITN's video about the Falklands campaign, which depicts some horrifying wounds, might attract criminal prosecution for containing the very material which had been shown on peaktime television to millions.

Once one steps from fact to fiction, the banned list grows ever longer. What, for instance, would one make of the blinding of Gloucester or Oedipus? Who would ever again be allowed to dramatise *mutillation, torture or other acts of gross violence*?"

Mr Robert McLean (Caithness and Sutherland): "Will the hon. gentleman explain why he thinks that exposure to the force of gravity could possibly be described as *mutillation, torture or other acts of gross violence*?"

This may not be the intention of the Bill, but intentions do not always meet their mark. One of the great failings of a legalistic approach to deciding what is aesthetically good or bad is that it depends on the notion that such judgments can be made with the certainty of, say, chartering the ocean.

As Mr Matthew Parris MP has pointed out to the committee: "If we were to try to remove from literature those things which might have a bad effect on immature and maladjusted adults, who knows where that might end? Many British people have seen bull fighting, and that is the main reason why it is so greatly disliked... the turning of the tide of American public opinion on the Vietnam war was when newsreel pictures were shown of little Vietnamese children running away from American soldiers with their backs on fire because of napalm. Showing people things can make them change their minds about them, not make them want to copy them."

"I do not say that people should be shown everything: there are some things which they should not see. But the committee should remember that merely because something is unpleasant and we do not believe it should happen is not sufficient reason for thinking it should not appear on video."

Or on television or the cinema screen, for that matter, for those are surely the next targets if a new and more restrictive code can find its way into the private home. A law to ban genuine video nasties will command popular support. One which attempts to define good taste, morally as well as legally, will fail. It may be an uncomfortable truth but the acceptable can only be defined in reverse: the unacceptable needs to exist and, on occasion, proclaim its existence to enable us to draw the line.

Roy Strong

The taste that begins with laying the table

Christmas is one of those occasions when even the most run-of-the-mill households pause and attempt to essay one of the arts of living, table-laying. Recently Lady Clark told me how, when she was busy in the kitchen preparing lunch, her husband would go out into the garden in search of the "bouquet" for the table. "Please remember not to pick those two roses," she would ask, but he always did, reflecting exactly his appreciation of the aesthetic of the table.

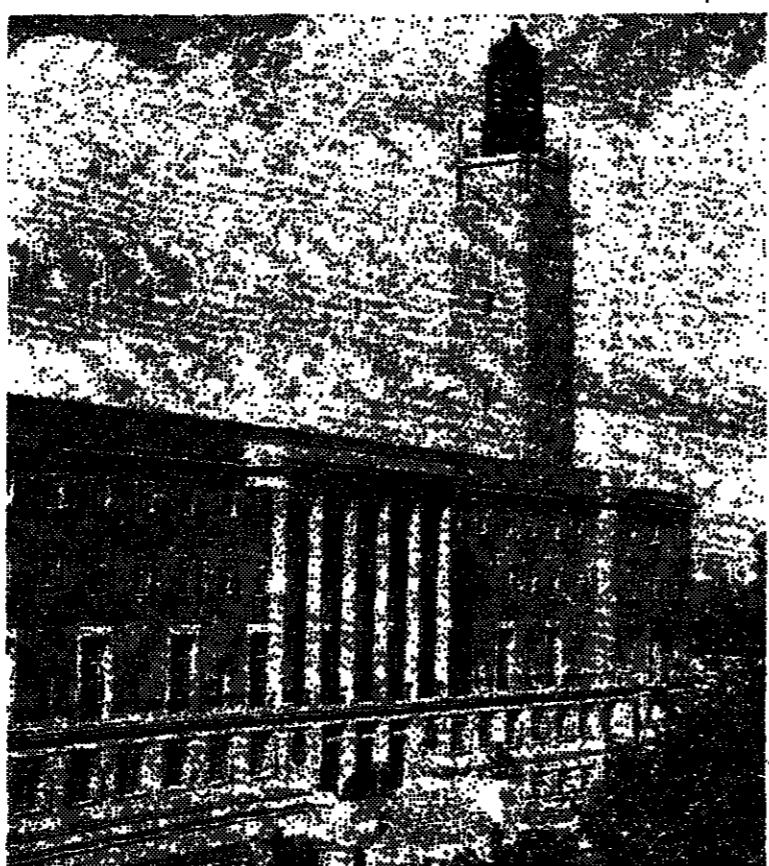
There is a marvellous museum in Stockholm which exhibits the history of table-laying. Down a darkened corridor the visitor goes past room after room laid in period style, one a ladies' dinner held in a bedroom by a roaring fire, as in the engraving by Abraham Bosse, another evoking the naughtiness of the *ancien régime* with Sévres porcelain arranged for a meal *à deux* at a table whose cloth trails to the ground, knotted at the corners. What art the consumption of food has evoked - but always mosaic pieces to be rearranged and reset to capture mood and ambience, from banquet to buffet.

My recollection of memorable tables would form an eccentric list. It would not be particularly governed by splendour at all. It would include a humble lunch of cold meat and salad with Duncan Grant at Charleston. The painted wood table, the pottery, even the food was pure Omega workshops. John Piper's honest scrubbed wood table at Fawley matches it in another way, for from the centre arises a bank of white pottery candlesticks, all sorts and sizes, with cascades of dripping white wax.

Artists' tables are always interesting as they naturally approach them as a form of still life.

No reminiscence of memorable tables can exclude grand ones however. So many of these are a let-down. A ton of antique silver is not necessarily beautiful. The Royal Academy dinner is positively municipal when it ought to be a visual feast. To it might be applied a remark made to my wife, a short time ago at another grand table. Looking at the explosion of "all-the-year-round chrysanthemums" in the middle, her neighbour commented: "I assume that these will be sent to Golders Green immediately after."

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



Norwich City Hall: the best of an era?

Art Deco paraphrase of Burnet's British Museum.

The first is a case of misapplied skill - the wrong skill. The second a case of monumental architecture cynically deployed, skin deep, as an eye-catcher. Nobody in the Thirties would ever have believed that a later (but not very much later) generation would wish to preserve such muddle and mediocrities.

To me it is a great puzzle why people do want to preserve building such as these. There is evidently something about them which appeals deeply. Is it the very grimness of their Thirties humour? Do they bring out, as it were in caricature, the contradictions and neurosis of the time? Is the fascination they

exercise a sort of voyeurism? I think that must be the answer, and I do not know what to make of it.

I would not shed a tear for Battersea Power Station. I suppose it is a fine brick mass, but those four belching columns at the four corners, pulling it apart, as it were, are to me really painful. Archer tried this game at St John's in Smith Square. It didn't work, and the church came to be called Queen Anne's footstool. It works even less at Battersea - Gavin Stamp's billiard table.

I suppose this may be dismissed as a "subjective judgement".

As a product of its time - at no other time could such a thing possibly have been erected.

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REHABILITATE, NOT DECAPITATE

A glimpse has now been offered of the arguments Mr Patrick Jenkin is using privately to secure for his rate capping Bill, due out next week, a better parliamentary reception than it deserves. They are, to do him justice, the same arguments as he has used publicly, with the added admission that the Government's chopped and changed financial relationship with local authorities has arrived at a condition of impenetrable chaos. Something has to be done. The something proposed is a giant stride towards central direction. Never, it appears, has Whitehall known better.

Mr Jenkin's first argument is that Britain is a unitary state. Local authorities are the creatures of Parliament, enjoying a merely statutory existence. Therefore there is no objection in principle to the central direction of the details of local expenditure and revenue raising. The premises are correct and the conclusion wrong.

This is a unitary state and councils are subordinate authorities, subject to statute. Parliament is fully entitled to do what it likes with them up to and including abolition. But it remains the case that to extinguish the discretion local authorities have historically possessed in determining their rate call and so varying their expenditure is to make a far-reaching change in the customary arrangements of government; and to that objec-

tion in principle may very well be taken.

Mr Jenkin's second argument is that government must be able to rely on the cooperation of local authorities in the realization of its economic and social objectives. If the cooperation is not forthcoming voluntarily it must be enforced. The proposition, broadly stated and subject to toleration of a reasonable amount of local variation, is uncontested. What is contested is the Government's claim that the "overspending" by councils, as Whitehall defines it, is actually putting major policy objectives at risk, when every penny of the extra expenditure is matched by extra yield from rates. The impediment to the execution of Government policies from that cause is not so great as to warrant a drastic diminution of the status of local government.

Mr Jenkin's third argument is that the proportion of rate income in the total income of local authorities, and the proportion of the sum paid in rates by domestic ratepayers in comparison with the sum paid by business and other non-voting ratepayers, and the proportion of domestic ratepayers who pay full rates in comparison with those who are subsidized or rebated, are all so low that the supposed financial accountability of councils to their electors is a nullity. He can point to the huge rate

CAVEAT TALPA

The first impulse of journalists over the affair of the Ministry of Defence leak is of respect and fellow-feeling towards *The Guardian*. If the secret memorandum about the arrival of cruise missiles in Britain had fallen into our hands instead of theirs, we would have used the information therein. Disclosure of items of public interest, is the business of the press, subject to the overriding requirements of justice and national security. It is agreed that the latter was not directly threatened by the information in the leaked paper. If challenged to disclose the identity of the source of a confidential report, the instinct and usually the duty of a journalist is to say nothing and take the consequences, which may in the last resort include imprisonment for contempt. *The Guardian* clearly acted from the best of motives and from an exacting view of the duty of the media. But in the circumstances of this case, it seems to us that the decision (which proves to have been an expensive one) was mistaken.

The hearing was a test case for a clause in the Contempt of Court Act 1981 which gave statutory force to a longstanding convention that journalists should not normally be required to disclose their sources unwillingly. This convention had been overthrown by the House of Lords in a case where British Steel had demanded that Granada TV should say who had

given it information, used in a broadcast, which cast a decidedly unflattering light on the company's management. Even when required to do so by the Lords, Granada rightly refused to expose its informant to dismissal and possible action for damages. BSC eventually dropped its demand. The new law took away the right of courts to require disclosure in such cases; only "the interests of justice or national security or . . . the prevention of disorder or crime" could justify an order to disclose.

The document itself let fall no secrets likely to be of assistance to enemies of the state, but its circulation within the Ministry was very restricted, and the leak implies that one of a small number of individuals with access to exceedingly sensitive material was prepared to commit a breach of trust. It was reasonable for the Appeal Court to find that this had significant implications for national security, that it was the threat of a threat.

The press thrives on notional breaches of trust by its informants, while regarding itself as bound to commit no breaches of trust against them. Many confidences pass every day between the press and people in business or government, and it is very much in the public interest that they should. Ministers are among the readiest to take advantage of these informal contacts, which depend on the maintenance of trust. But the

CHARITABLE GIVING AND TAKING

New figures from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations show a noteworthy increase in the subventions from central government to voluntary and charitable bodies in the four years since Mrs Thatcher took office. Large sums are also paid by the Manpower Services Commission, the Housing Corporation and by local government; taken together, the state has come to underwrite a large proportion of the work of the voluntary sector. The dependence of ostensibly private social service on public benefit invites closer inspection than the voluntary movement has yet received from either public or Parliament.

The rate of growth of grant-giving by certain ministries - Urban Programme grants from the Department of the Environment have increased in value by nearly 300 per cent in four years - has been too rapid to allow anything but the most cursory assessment of value for the public money spent. Some departments have favourites; money undoubtedly goes to charitable bodies with an avowedly political intent (such as the Child Poverty Action Group) and to organizations at cross-purposes with the government's social policy. Of course, such pluralism is a welcome index of political maturity; but there is also a case for pruning the ever-lengthening list of interest groups knocking, apparently successfully, on Whitehall doors.

More worrying is the fact that public money is dispersed not only to the worthy charities devoted to the care of the elderly, children, and the handi-

increases imposed by runaway socialist councils in inner cities at a time of falling inflation. And it is convenient for Mr Jenkin, if not contrived, that the grant support juggling for the coming year pretty well guarantees that these same councils will remain true to form.

It is indeed scandalous that successive governments have allowed the financial and electoral framework of local government to deteriorate so far that in many places only the most tenuous local accountability remains. But whatever it is that drives Mr Jenkin to set about reform in the way he has, it is not conservative instinct. Local government needs putting back on its feet and he offers it the *coup de grace*. Its electoral roots and financial base need patient and detailed reconstruction, and he offers substitution by Whitehall, swollen and winded by a mass of local intricacy that it is quite unsuited to digest.

When Parliament receives the measure it should grant a selective power of rate capping, provided the criteria are objectively defined; for things have got so bad that many ratepayers now have a right to that protection. It should refuse to grant general reserve powers if they are sought. There is no necessity for them. They are a lazy substitute for the rehabilitation of local government proper.

John Henney's letter to the Times (December 12) is a good example of the kind of argument that is likely to be made.

On the face of it, the letter is reasonable. It is clear that the CND's political bias is not the only factor in the decision to grant a selective power of rate capping. There are other factors involved, such as the need to protect the most vulnerable ratepayers. However, the letter does not provide enough information to fully understand the context of the decision.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 16. By command of The Queen, the Baroness Trumpton (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the arrival of The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and welcomed His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE December 16. The Prince of Wales received a ball in aid of the National Society for Cancer Relief at the Kensington International Conference Centre on February 3.

The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will dine with fellows of the Society at Boodle's on February 17.

His Royal Highness later received His Excellency the Hon Sir Victor Garland (High Commissioner for Australia) and Lady Garland.

17.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. S. Beck and Miss E. A. Bucknall. The engagement is announced between Julian, second son of Mr M. Beck of Avon Wood, Swan, Lympstone, Hampshire, and Mrs Jeffrey Beck and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. B. Bucknall, of Widden Close, Boldre, Lympstone, Hampshire.

Mr J. Byson and Miss S. J. Dyer. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Byson, of Parkstone, Dorset, and Sarah Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Dyer, of Webridge, Surrey.

Mr J. J. Carter and Miss E. B. E. B. The engagement is announced from Hongkong between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs John Carter, of Plumpton, Sussex, and Joanna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Roberts, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr D. R. E. Carter and Miss F. J. Jurriaanse. The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs R. H. Carter, of Matfield, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr F. J. Jurriaanse, of Fordcombe, Tunbridge Wells, and Mrs J. Surdiance of Benenden.

Mr G. B. Field and Miss M. L. Jeronimus. The engagement is announced between Ashley Vaughan, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Conway, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Martine Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. J. Jeronimus, of East Horsey, Surrey.

Mr M. J. A. Fomsky and Miss B. L. Atabong. The engagement is announced between Gareth Barrie, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. H. B. Field, of Cardigan, and Heather Mary, only daughter of Captain and Mrs M. J. Ross of the Wirral, Merseyside.

Mr M. J. A. Fomsky and Miss B. L. Atabong. The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Chief J. N. Fomsky and Mrs Fomsky, of Baia Road, Kumba, Cameroon, Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Prestwich, of Manchester, and Suzanne Janet, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Lurie, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr P. B. Newton and Miss F. S. FitzGerald. The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, Burnham, Norfolk, between Mr Peter Newton, youngest son of Sir Kenneth Newton, of Wildways, High Broom Lane, Crowthorne, Sussex, and the late Lady Newton, and Miss Fiona FitzGerald, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Q. FitzGerald, of Penny Broom, Burnham Market, Norfolk, The Rev C. J. Isaacson officiated.

Mr R. Dahl and Mrs F. A. Crossland. The marriage took place on Thursday, December 15, in London between Mr Roul Dahl, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Felicity Ann Crossland (née d'Abro), of 9 Turnchapel Mews, London, SW4.

A reception was held at St James's Palace and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

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The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory, coloured silk, and an antique lace veil. She carried a bouquet of stephanotis, lilies of the valley, and orchids. Miss Lucy Kippax and Miss Susan Morris-Jones attended her. Wing Commander Simon Bostock was best man.

A reception was held at St James's Palace and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. Dahl and Mrs F. A. Crossland. The marriage took place on Thursday, December 15, in London between Mr Roul Dahl, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Felicity Ann Crossland (née d'Abro), of 9 Turnchapel Mews, London, SW4.

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17-23 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Tripping the night fantastic

Photographs by Laurie Sparham



Who cares about the depression? Not the hedonistic youngsters who are flocking to the new kind of big city nightclubs. Max Bell gets caught in the rush

Swinging London is back. The opening last month of the Hippodrome, a £3m pleasure palace, and the seasonal exigencies have reinforced the belief that the recession can be forgotten. There is a new desire to see and be seen in the brash and expensive hedonistic havens of the city's night life.

The New Romantic movement, which has now been assimilated into high fashion, is one reason for the recent proliferation of clubs. The modern obsession with style and individual dress has generated the need for new places where people can congregate and study each other.

This desire to parade finds many parallels with the 1920s when an economic slump was offset by a hellbent determination to step out and shine, to ad-lib. The club scene flourished in the 1960s, but then the music was paramount and tastes were more orthodox. Now they are far more heterogeneous. There is a club to suit every preference: from African to 1940s jump and jive, from smart punk to leather fetishism.

Similarly, while the record charts now form the domain of the new breed of teenyboppers, older teenagers and young adults feel less inclined to take it all too seriously.

The arrival of the American-style cocktail bar has given British youth the ideal environment in which to celebrate its new-found sense of style and ready money. Live music halls or pubs seem dreary by comparison and today's youth has no intention of adhering to former Prime Minister James Callaghan's injunction to be in bed by 11 o'clock. The clubs, with their late licensing hours, are the natural places in which to flout the depression.

"To be an Englishman is to belong to the most exclusive club there is," wrote Ogden Nash. The Camden Palace in London NW1 may not be the most exclusive club in the world, but it has been voted the best in Europe by those who know, and the proof lies in the thousands of addicts of London night life who pass through its

heavily guarded doors six nights a week. They come to Slum It In Style on Tuesdays or luxuriate in Helden on Thursdays. For a few hours metropolitan youth can assume an heroic status, rub shoulders with the stars and indulge in a glittering noisy fantasy.

The Palace is impressive. Formerly the prosaic Music Machine, it was converted for £1m by Messrs Fredericks and Henry, two Coventry business men. They added lasers, a barrage of lights, the throbbing dance floor and the inflated circus figures that hang from the ceiling. The effect is futuristic meets art deco.

They also added Steve Strange and his partner Rusty Egan. Strange is London's most notorious socialite, a Welsh emigre, aged 24, who presides as Palace host, entertaining his florid guests in the cocktail bar like a New Wave Beau Brummell or John Wilkes.

He and Egan anticipated the 1980s club boom with a succession of smaller ventures, Billies, Club for Heroes, Hell and Blitz, watering holes for the New Romantic movement which spawned the designers Sue Clowes and Stephen Linnard and pop stars Spandau Ballet and Boy George.

It has been said that once a trend is identified it is over, but the Palace seems to be doing well. At a recent Helden the place was packed for the visit of Divine, an outrageous New York transvestite. On the fourth tier of this vast edifice Bob Bates, the Doncaster-born bar manager, nods good evening to one of the visions of beauty that flock here. This is Dave, aged 19, from Birmingham, his hair arranged like a Spanish galleon under full sail. In his silken wake - "more comfortable than Hush Puppies, mate" - come four more of Ziggy Stardust's children, the glamour kings, David Singh, Trojan, Leigh Bowery and Peter Hammond. Their five-inch platform boots, luxur tights, pancake make-up and plaited draw the immediate interest of an Italian film crew, here like everyone else to participate in the clubland phenomenon.

Strange holds forth at the bar. It is well past midnight but the place is not yet full; anyone who is anyone arrives late and stays until 3am. An evening at the Palace can be expensive. Admission is £4 and it is not much fun nursing one lager all night. It is, after all, extremely hot. Strange knows that the poorer visitors smuggle in drink, but he still wonders where on earth they get the money from.

Tracey and Pete, 21-year-olds from Dartford, had come to the West End because they saw the Hippodrome on television.

Patsy and Delia, both aged 18, arrive at 10pm and intend to stay until the end. They like the piña colada cocktails and will spend about £30 each before taking a taxi all the way home to Biggin Hill in Kent. "People are fed up with being depressed," Strange says. "These kids have got the latest clothes. I don't know how they manage."

In common with the more upmarket clubs the Palace operates a door policy which Strange defines as an attitude. "If people are polite, fine, but if eight guys arrive together that spells trouble."

Six tube stops away Peter Stringfellow, the flamboyant 43-year-old proprietor of the Hippodrome, on the old Talk of the Town site just off Leicester Square, sits back and fingers his £800 suede suit with glee. After 20 years of working in and running nightclubs Stringfellow can claim: "I am the best single club owner in Britain. I may look like a rock'n'roll dropout but I am financially sound. The Hippodrome is all mine, bought with pound notes, cash." He spent more than 50,000 of them on the club's opening party.

Sharp as a razor blade and son of a steel worker, Stringfellow started his club life in the early 1960s booking the Beatles for £85 at the Black Cat before running the notorious Mojo mod club in Sheffield. He moved into discos with Cinderellas and Rockefellas in Leeds, sold these to Meccos and then sank his savings into the Millionaire in Manchester.

"I sold that to Granada for a tidy profit and arrived in the West End. I wouldn't be anywhere else. The West End is glamour, it's frivolous but it's entertainment."

While Strange at the Palace had been guardedly polite about the Hippodrome as competition, Stringfellow was less charitable about the Palace. "I like the place and I'd like some of their bizarre clientele, but Camden is so provincial; it's just like Scunthorpe. I wouldn't have paid three million for place two streets from here."

He also adopts a door policy. "No coach parties from Wigan or scruff", and one gets the feeling that Christmas office outings would not be over welcome either. Admission on Friday is £7.50, cocktails are twice Palace prices, a bottle of Dom Pérignon will set you back £55. Who pays these prices?

Tracey and Pete, 21-year-olds from Dartford, had come to the West End because they saw the Hippodrome on television.

Happiness at the Hippodrome: Late-night revellers include the 'Gruessome Threesome', Guardsmen Tony, Merv and Mal (top)

They'd tried the Beat Route and Gossips and the Empire but wouldn't go to the Palace. Not their scene.

Tracey wasn't sure if this was her scene either and Pete was shocked at the admission price, but if it had been £20 he would have paid. Too embarrassing not to and anyway the club was exclusive, they didn't let in any riff-raff. This was flash, with those lasers. And those sofas! You sank back a foot in those! See the lavatories! Hair spray, cologne, the lot! What an experience! Out of this world!

It struck me that the Hippodrome was deliberately ostentatious, an extension of its owner's ego, like his other club Stringfellow's. On the hydraulic dance floor the Hot Gossip dance troupe went through their sex routine while a DJ jolted the hordes along like a holiday camp redcoat. Around the club

an army of young men with elaborate brushes scurried about sweeping up imaginary ash into brass receptacles.

Three of the Hippodrome's more unusual guests introduced themselves as the 'Gruessome Threesome', Tony, Merv and Mal from Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent, currently residing in Knightsbridge as squaddies in Her Majesty's Horse Guards. The Blues and Royals. They liked the Hippodrome, it was for the in-crowd. Did it matter if they spent £40?

Like so many other recent artistic and social innovations the new "hip" generation of young nightclubs has its origin on the gay fringe. The club situated underneath the arches near Charing Cross station. It was packed on the night I visited and the customers were paying rapt attention to the various acts on show.

Ian Levine the DJ, was pleased. The success of the night, a dance routine recorded for posterity by film director Ken Russell, indicated the club's position as style leader even among the straight clubs.

Both the Palace and the Hippodrome have started gay

regulars. It is like Christmas every day.

At Heaven David Inches promised: "There'll be lots and lots of snow, £500 worth."

But the hippiest new club in London, the Circus, has no special seasonal plans. Under Jeremiah Haysi it is a moving irregular event that has opened from warehouses, established clubs and the Scottish Regimental Drill Hall opposite

Buckingham Palace - the ultimate coup de théâtre. The Circus may soon be symptomatic of a new breed of cheaper club with £1 admission and £1 drinks.

Dr Johnson's well-worn aphorism "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford" is still true. For those who can afford it.

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Clubmen: Hosts Peter Stringfellow (left) and Steve Strange

THE HIPPODROME, corner of Charing Cross Road and Cranbourn Street, London WC2 (437 4311). Doors open 10pm-3am. Licensed until 3am, except Sunday 11.30pm. Food in Heaven restaurant, main dishes about £16. House wine £4.80, pint lager £1, house drinks on Wednesday until midnight 50p. Spirits with mixer £1. Club entry from 50p. Wednesdays for £140s to £3.50 Saturdays. Some union card concessions, check with club for details. Live music, personal appearances, videos, disco.

CAMDEN PALACE, 1a Camden High Street, London NW1 (387 0428). Doors open 8pm-3am. Licensed until 2am. Food in the Balcony Restaurant, approximately £10 a head. House wine £8, champagne from £18, cocktails £3.50-£5, lager £1.25 a glass, spirits with mixer from £1.65. Club entry £2-£7.50. Live music, disco, personal appearances, videos, disco.

BLUE NOTE CLUB, 14a Sadler Gate, Derby (0332 42569). Doors open 8pm-2am. Fast food from £1 in the Diner. House wine £4.50, Red Stripe lager £1.10, spirits with mixer £1.05, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1.50-£2.50. Live music, special nights, videos.

THE HACIENDA, 11-13 Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061 236 5051). Doors open 8pm-2am. Food from £1. Lager 80p, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1-£2.50. Live music, special nights, videos.

HEAVEN (including Cellar Bar), The Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2 (339 3852).

Coaster would be all at sea without it.

No.8 COASTER

In a series

1 part Club Soda
2 dashes ANGOSTURA
Add ice and stir



ANGOSTURA aromatic bitters
Put a dash in your cocktails tonight.

FOR
EVER
ENGLAND

To live in California is to inhabit a world of extremes. Michael Watkins gets to grips with the weird, appealing ways of the place where one day the kissing will have to stop.

Cable cars and stars in the land of lunacy

Jessica Mitford flew out of San Francisco the day I flew in. I don't think there was anything personal in it: a question of imperfect timing, that's all. As I was checking into Nob Hill, she was doing much the same thing in London.

No, I wasn't being coy about Nob Hill; it's the address of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, from where you can watch fog steal in from the Pacific, obscuring Golden Gate Bridge in minutes.

"Everybody's Favourite City" is San Francisco's modest claim, couched, I believe, by Alastair Cooke. The song-writer takes up the refrain: someone left his heart in San Francisco, where little cable cars climb halfway to the stars. Someone else left his heart at Alcatraz, bleak and impregnable out there in the bay; his name was Al Capone. Usually you could hear the grinding lurch of those cable cars as they climbed vertiginously from Powell and Market Streets; but this time they were still, the system being overhauled for the first time in history - so everyone walked, hobbily, rapturously, in this breathless, rapturous city.

In my room, I spread out the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Ernie's Restaurant on Montgomery Street was still going.

Lauren Bacall was still

going too, starring in *Woman of the Year* at the Golden Gate Theater. Then I noticed that Rosemary Clooney was opening that evening, a supper show at the Fairmont, and because, at 11, I was unrequitedly in love with Miss Clooney, I booked a friendly thing to do.

Remembering her book *Hons* and *Rebels*, I asked Jessica Mitford, Treahaff's husband, Bob, if she was still rebellious.

"She likes to preserve the image of a rebel," he said. He also said that California has a very seductive element to the British: he should know, the Treahaffs have lived in San Francisco since 1943 - why, in southern California alone, there are 375,000 expatriate British.

Resisting superstitions, San

Francisco is one of my favourite cities because it climbs hills while other cities spread out it

encourages its immigrants to retain their ethnic differences while other places assimilate them. It rejoices in a public transport system as archaic as Stephenson's Rocket. It bakes sourdough bread; and it is a launching pad projecting you towards Big Sur and a road south.

Monterey comes first, 120 miles from San Francisco; still a fishing town despite the gooney things that happened to Sinatra a long time ago. I stayed the night there, eating clam chow-

der and abalone puffs at Rappa's on Old Fisherman's Wharf. The cabaret was terrific, a salty pride of sea-lions made cink-cinkin barks at a pelican demonstrating that its beak could hold more than its belly can.

A storm had blocked the coastal road beyond Big Sur. So I made a labyrinthine detour, which took hours; but you can't hoard time at the expense of beauty - that would be like neglecting the Sistine Chapel because you had a bus to catch. You dare not take your eyes off this road, so perilous is it; yet you must. It is Cornwall through a magnifying glass, hugely cruel, elemental. It was shaped by a force more omnipotent even than William Randolph Hearst, who built a monument to himself, a shrine if you prefer, calling it La Cuesta Encantada, the Enchanted Hill - more brutally known as Hearst Castle.

It is best to be anaesthetized

Hearst, they say, was the model for Citizen Kane, who had a dark dream and constructed a monumental folly of another kind. Years ago I met a guide at the San Simeon castle who had been in service in Hearst's time. Her name was Milly; she had a face of almost serpentine vacuity and was possessed of a seaham-type devotion to her master, Mr Hearst, she told me, was adorable; and there her case rested.

I could have made San Simeon to Los Angeles city limits that night; it's only 150 miles or so; but you need to steady yourself against the cultural shock waves of LA.

Exposing yourself too suddenly could lead to brain damage. So, like a penitent on the eve of revelation, I sought refuge at Morro Bay, savouring stiff ocean breezes and stiffer draughts of Jack Daniels. It is best to be numb, to be anaesthetized; for, if San Francisco welcomes you elegantly, Los Angeles greets you with a snarl, with trombones and a hundred trendy expletives. LA survives through one cardinal rule: to be "with-it". Without it is not much.

The timing was better than with Jessica Mitford. I'm off to New York tomorrow," he announced. "To collect some award worth \$16,000 - not to be

sniffed at", he added, sniffing Isherwood first came with Auden in the 1930s but Auden felt California was "stagnant", so moved to New York, leaving his friend at MGM Studios, in company with Dorothy Parker.

"I think I'm '79," he said vaguely. "But I know I'm Californian. They don't ask where you're from, as long as you're there. There are few taboos - all that's required is to be different, dig up an act, like being British. Anyway, I'm running out of kith and kin in England."

I left him on the "deck" of the house on Adelaide Drive. We had been admiring the sunset, Isherwood flapping his arms against his chest as if to ward off the frost of northern England that got to his bones, those years ago. "You know," he said, "Sally Bowles was a real person." He looked like a satyr, jubilant, needing to surprise, yet wanting to be seen.

Certainly he wouldn't want a Rolls-Royce, I thought next day, lunching in Wilshire Boulevard with Anthony Thompson, President of Rolls-Royce Beverly Hills. Well, if Isherwood can do without a Rolls, there are 6,300 souls in the area to whom the vehicle is a necessity.

"It's a way of showing quite conspicuously that you've won your laurels", Thompson said. "There's a natural respect for wealth here."

That evening the fare was more frugal. Bangers and mash and John Courage beer at Ye Olde King's Head on Santa Monica Boulevard. I ate with John Gordon, the English publican and a girl called Geri Jean. "The extremes are all here", said John. "And everything in between. Fads, cults, trends, all begin here. Everybody is clawing at being somebody, their 60 seconds of fame. They're all writers or actors, or put-of-work actors saying 'But I'm up for a great role.' There's a mass identity crisis."

There is no identity crisis about the Queen Mary, aboard which I spent that night in a teak-panelled cabin, all art deco and foot-operated Stanks laboratories. She carried captains and kings, the Windsors, Churchill, Laurel and Hardy, Coward and Dietrich, crossing the Atlantic

in three days, 20 hours and 42 minutes, using up 30,000 eggs during the passage. But California is looking after her; she sits proud at the Long Beach quay, every inch a lady.

'Compete or keep a low profile'

Again, I took the long way to Palm Springs, out of LA through Pasadena, into the Mojave Desert, through the San Bernadino Mountains. It used to take the whole day instead of two hours. I did it as kind of a purifying rite, and to remind myself that California is crammed with raw beauty as well as freaks, funky-dunks and weirdos. And anyway, Palm Springs is something else.

You would need a dress of two as well, and a ton of jewelry, and a ready line in witty gossip. "My dear, she's such a good housekeeper. Every time she gets divorced, she keeps the house."

They are even working on open-air conditioning; one restaurant, Las Casuelas, has it already. There is talk that entire streets will be air-conditioned, so that shopping for your essential Cartier, Hermès or groceries will be quite a treat in the 130°F summer temperatures. In Palm Springs, there is much concern with health, bee pollen with royal jelly being

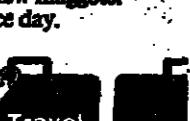
available on the supermarket shelves; bodies are being sensibly rejuvenated with spirulina plankton. Overnight octogenarians are turning into a seething mass of hormones.

I stayed with my old chum Zukowski, editor of *Palm Springs Life* magazine. "Let's play aphorisms", I suggested over a plateful of bean shoots. "How about living in Southern California guarantees the loss of a few IQ points a year?" he said. Seriously, on the surface, life here looks as easy as eating chocolate ice-cream. It's not.

Like any place that extends a promise of instant fame and fortune, it's fraught with danger. The streets of Los Angeles, last frontier of the American dream, are paved with broken hearts.

Well, there's California for you, as meaningfully as I can manage. Polythene-wrapped and sanitized for your personal protection. God supplied this particular Big Apple, as rosy a fruit as in the whole orchard of Eden; it's just that Adam cultivated it a few maggots.

Have a nice day.



1 New London-San Francisco-Los Angeles-London with Pan American Airways using the Pan Am Fly/Drive in conjunction with Alamo Rent-A-Car. The first-class return fare to either Los Angeles or San Francisco is £2226. The current Apex fare is £240.00 return. Pan Am's fly-drive deal includes a fare element of £400 (details in the new brochure). There is a free car rental scheme operating between Jan 1 and March 31, 1984: telephone 01-409 0888 for details. The Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, double room European plan £26-£28. Hotel Queen Mary, Long Beach, outside staterooms £50-£60, Winston Churchill suite £163-£216. On the road in the United States I invariably use Travelodge (part of ITH Hotels) which offers 'middle-of-the-road' excellence at budget prices, £22-£36 for a double room. Bookings in London on 01-597 3444 or toll-free in the United States on 800-255 8050. For dining exclusively at Ernie's (or similar) in San Francisco, allow £50-£70 for two; but two can eat moderately for £17-£27 with Californian wine. Mileage of the described journey 1,300 miles.



Watchful eyes: Sightseers look across the bay from Fisherman's Wharf to the bleak prison fortress of Alcatraz

Scotching the rumours about the Italians

As another ski season opens, those who keep their eyes on the popularity stakes will have noticed that Austria has once again replaced Italy at the top of the league and become the most favoured destination among British skiers.

This reversal is a little curious for when it comes to sheer quantity and variety of skiing. Italy far outpaces Austria, where the skiing, for all its excellence, does tend to be very much of a piece. If there is an answer, other than that the fashions change, it is probably that British skiers feel that the Austrians are serious about skiing, while the Italians are - how can one put it - just a little laid back.

How much truth there is in

this feeling is hard to establish, but it is certainly more than a nasty rumour put about by the envious to do the Italians down.

Last winter, we arrived in the resort of Santa Caterina, to find that although the resort was open, the pistes were still un-pisted. Someone had borrowed the Piste Bully rattrack to smarten up some slope for a race. My lift ticket went into the electronic gate-set all right, but it wouldn't come out again, and the idea of passing the morning tied by the neck to a turnstile isn't much of a turn-on.

I must say that our instructor was charming. With the amount of practice he put in he couldn't help but be charming. On the other hand, an hour's lesson which consisted of 10 minutes

skiing and 50 minutes standing about while he charged up the female skiers, cooled both my feet and my admiration.

Down the road in Bormio, a very attractive resort, rightly popular with the British, the pistes were in very good condition, and we had a great morning's skiing until the stroke of noon. Then the lifts stopped and stayed stopped for nearly two hours, while all right-minded people stoked up on pasta. Unless, of course, you happened to be at the bottom of some far-distant slope and unable to get back. I'm all for a nice long lunch hour but I do so like to be told.

That little hiccup apart, Bormio is a great place for skiing and gives the lie to those nasty rumours that the Italians buy their lift systems fifth-hand, probably from Bulgaria, and service them with several coats of paint. The lifts at Bormio were being serviced regularly, some all the time.

On to the bus then, and off across the pass, to Livigno. Livigno has one Great Good Thing and one Great Bad Thing. The Great Good Thing is the six-hour transfer time from Milan Airport. The Great Good Thing is that the resort is dry, free and therefore swash with cut-price liquor. The skiing takes place on the slopes on either side of the valley, and one has to decide each morning which side of the valley to ski on, for the two are not linked. There is said to be a smellicious which roves between the two, but our inquiries for this useful service produced only the response: "Demand". *Demand* has been rightly described as a word meaning as *manana*, but without the same sense of urgency. Here too, someone had made off with the Piste Buly.

Our return, by bus and train to Milan, was something of an odyssey. This was yet another surprise because Italy is the country where the trains are said to run on time, as indeed they do. The snag is that they are timed to arrive in any junction just five minutes after the onward connection has departed.

But let me not become sour. It is only fair to add that our visit was in mid-December, at the very start of the season, and no doubt as time went on it all perked up. Besides, the people were friendly, the resorts delightful, the prices less than painful, the food finger-lickin' good, and the sun shone.

Rob Neillands

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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Aloha, hula and goodbye to an Hawaiian odyssey

By 4.30am on the first day the jet lag had won. Unable to sleep, I wandered out onto the terrace of my hotel bedroom and gazed out on Waikiki Beach, that most famous of Pacific resorts. Sixteen floors below the waves rolled in endlessly; I had imagined the surf would be enormous and the noise thunderous, but apparently this was the wrong season. All around the lights of the massive hotel and condominium blocks winked conspiratorially. As I stood breathing in the light sub-tropical night air, I found it hard to believe I was halfway round the world in the middle of the world's biggest ocean.

The journey to Hawaii had been horrendous despite the comforts of the 747. London to San Francisco - 10 hours 45 minutes, three hour stopover; then five and a half hours San Francisco to Honolulu. Add transfers and it's 24 hours door-to-door. And then there's the 12-hour time loss.

Somehow, the islands confirm your worst fears and answer your wildest dreams. Waikiki on the island of Oahu is smart, rich and expensive. The beachside hotels stretch endlessly along a surprisingly narrow strip of sand. Behind the main beach road lies a series of multi-storey shopping precincts selling anything from Cartier jewelry to native carvings and fast food. It is the American dream transported thousands of sea miles to a group of 20 volcanic islands and atolls, once inhabited by Polynesians who did not know the meaning of sin until American missionaries told them what it was.

Sightseeing begins on the beach. All around on that over-exposed strip, enormous whale-like Americans lie recumbent on the sun casting a shadow over slender Japanese neighbours. Gorgeous blondes, male and female, natural and dyed, soak up the ultra-violet. Tanning is a serious business here; outside many of the hotels there are Tanning Information Centres.



Business as usual: Diamond Head looms behind the extraordinarily narrow strip of Waikiki beach

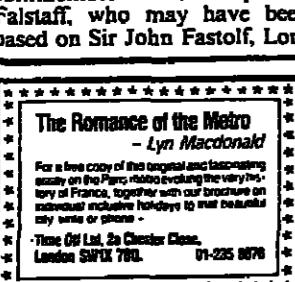


Ideal setting: the picturesque village of Castle Combe

Who would have solved the murder of Castle Combe? Would it have been Miss Marple, invited, fortuitously, by some long-lost friend to stay in this suspiciously perfect limestone village in north Wiltshire? Or Hercule Poirot, called in by Battle of the Yard to pose as a guest at the manor house, where we ourselves were staying for the weekend?

The manor house, let me explain, is now an hotel and lies just a minute's walk from the market cross of Castle Combe, which has been called the prettiest village in England. The cross still bears the grooves where the medieval bowmen sharpened their arrows. There is a convivial village pub, a babbling village brook, the Byre, and within the picturesque village church lies the thirteenth-century tomb of Sir Walter de Dunstanville, who built the castle, now defunct.

The hotel is mostly seventeenth and eighteenth century and with its oak-panelled walls and enormous open fireplace it is every inch the scene of a Christie crime - Styles, perhaps, or Chimmneys. In the lounge an Italian frieze 200 years old commemorates Shakespeare's Falstaff, who may have been based on Sir John Fastolf, Lord



For most, gluttony. For some, curiosity. But what of the flamboyant Dutchman buying doubles while his wife sat by the fire, silently reading her *Horse and Hounds*? And what to make of the overheard phrase: "There's evil at the heart of this village"?

We spent the night in a four-poster bed and from our huge windows there were good English views next morning over manicured lawns and woodlands beyond. Coffee, the Sunday papers, breakfast and a five-mile hike set us up for an English lunch of which even Marc Decker, now released from his labours, approved.

There was no crime at Castle Combe that weekend, but I think we discovered its secret. The place, quite simply, has style.

Peter Brown



Getting there

The wines we drank were from the House of Doffi and Iron, of Alsace, and were shipped by J. B. Rymer, of London. Marc Decker is employed by Doffi and Iron. The Major House Hotel, one of the best Western group, lies between the A4 and the A420, six miles from Chippenham, a two and a half hour drive from London. A four-poster double bedroom is normally £28 a night, a single room £20, but winter breaks can be taken until April, 1984, at £25 per person for a two-night stay, dinner included.

After the banquet, in the bar, we probed each other's reasons for coming to Castle Combe. We know

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VALUES/Beryl Downing on gifts with lasting value

Investment in a present with a future

The cost of giving often has nothing whatever to do with the price. Some of the least expensive and most enchanting presents are the result of hours of consideration which cost a good deal more than mere cash. But while running over your own gifts with a geiger counter and a pocket calculator is not recommended by the best etiquette books, there is no reason, if you are choosing a present for someone else, why you should not make sure that it is of lasting value. So here is a selection of presents that could well have an investment value - possibly in terms of money and certainly in terms of pleasure.

Wisdom of choosing pearls

In the past 13 years pearls have increased in value more than diamonds, according to Mikimoto, the originators of the cultured pearl. A strand which cost £25 in 1970 would cost £200 today and Mikimoto can show you every size in every colour. Always try pearls against your skin before buying: you may think you want white, but pink (for blondes) or gold (for brunettes) may look much better.

The latest idea is to match necklaces with watch bracelets in pearl and turquoise or pearl and coral (from about £400). For those who already have pearl necklaces, detachable droppers are available from £40. Jewellers who stock Mikimoto will tailor-make to order. For local stockists contact Mikimoto Pearls, 20-24 Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, London EC2 (01-831 8518).

It is almost impossible to tell cultured pearls from natural pearls without an X-ray, but you can tell beads from cultured pearls by their comparative lack of lustre. Or rub them across the edge of your teeth: cultured pearls will feel textured, fake ones quite smooth. The qualities to look for are lustre, colour, size and shape, which should all be well matched in the same necklace.

Investing in modern jewelry means selecting a highly individual style that has more to

offer than passing fashion. A designer with a most distinctive style is Elizabeth Gage, whose charming cottage studio at the back of 25 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-589 2706) provides a delightful un-shop-like ambience in which to discuss settings for stones you already have, or to choose something entirely new.

Elizabeth Gage believes in going straight to the top - her first collection after training as a goldsmith was for Cartier in 1964. She loves opulent and dramatic jewelry and is strongly influenced by Viking and Byzantine styles - the many-stranded choker illustrated can be made in pearls, amethysts, sodalite (like lapis lazuli), garnets, cornelians, coral or particularly effectively, in black onyx and white bone. Rings are her forte - big and bold with unusual stones - and she also loves enamelling: a range of zodiac rings is enamelled in brilliant colours with the symbols in 18-carat gold (about £675).

The magnificent bracelet illustrated is her own - something similar could be commissioned, but Elizabeth Gage prefers making one of a kind and, apart from the smaller pieces, will never make more than about nine of anything - each piece numbered, documented and signed.

Textiles full of Eastern promise

Since the price of genuine Persian rug has become prohibitive, collectors are looking at other oriental textiles and particularly at the collections shown by Joss Graham at 10 Eccleston Street, London SW1. He has been travelling India and the Far East for 12 years to indulge his passion for textiles.

Prices for hangings are from £60 to £900, but there are also small items, scarves, purses, etc, from £4.

A picture of abstraction

I first saw Judy Sale's pictures at John Cullen's lighting studio at 1 Woodlark Court, Smith Street, London SW3. The power of the large, swirling abstract oils with a feeling of sky or sea or sand made an immediate impact, and when I met her it was a pleasure to find that she is also an extremely efficient businesswoman. "So many people think they are going to be discovered and they ain't, so one needs to be professional in every way," she says. Having spent some time as an interior designer she is always inspired by colour and likes to create

the New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes (01-748 8850), on until January 14, includes watercolours and oils by established and lesser-known artists at prices from £50 to £1,000 - notable names are Sir Hugh Casson, Bernard Dunstan, Sickert, Ruskin Spear, Gilbert Spencer and Carel Weight.

Alternatively you could visit Graffiti's fourth exhibition of miniature prints, including original works by 50 artists from Britain, Europe, Japan, North America and the Middle East. The prints range from



Caroling cats: Miniature etching 'The First Noel' by Maggie Burley from Graffiti: £18.40 plus 50p p & p exhibition is at 30 James Street, London W1 (01-486 7647) until Christmas Eve.

Already popular in Canada and America, she has only had one exhibition in this country. When she becomes better known, prices, which now range from £300 to £1,000, are bound to rise, so this is a very good time to consider her work.

Private viewings can be arranged by appointment at The Old School House, Crown Lane, Ludgershall, Andover, Hampshire SP11 9RU (0264 790860).

Charlotte Campbell-Davys is so incensed at the outrageous prices charged for prints of no investment value at all that she has started to sell original paintings from her own house at 42 Jubilee Place, London SW3 (01-352 1203). She has about 120 watercolours, oils, and drawings from £15 to £350, framed. The great advantage of this setting is that you can see how the pictures look in a home, rather than in the unfurnished surroundings of a gallery and the collection is sufficiently varied for everyone to find something to their taste.

"I'd be worried if anyone walked out without liking something, although I don't mind a bit if they walk out without buying", she says. Her suggestion for an investment buy? A £15 cartoon by Ellen Macaulan, a young artist who is tipped to go far.

Discerning buyers don't necessarily have to spend a great deal in order to get a good investment. An exhibition at postage-stamps to postcard size, prices from £5 to £30. Frames available on the spot. The results are impressive. The prints are in remarkably good condition and prices at the lower end are no more than modern reproductions, £20-£65, with a few items over £1,000.

They include the dramatic and colourful actor and warrior prints by Yoshitora, Toyokuni II and Kunichika and the work of the most famous Japanese landscape artists of the 19th century, Hokusai and Hiroshige.

There is a finite number of such prints, so in a few years they will be even more difficult to find. In the meantime the Japanese Print Shop is at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 1234), or you can find Peter Barkes at 38 Petergate, York (0904 51080).

Dramatic designs: Elizabeth Gage's amethyst and silver choker £748; 18ct gold bracelet £4,600; turquoise and 18ct gold ring £828. Inset: Mikimoto pearl and gold necklace £275, with clip-on pendant £120; twin drop pendant £49.50; pearl and diamond pendant £75.

Decorative tricks to turn the table into a feast for the eye

Christmas is the time to take more than usual trouble to make the table look attractive. But there's no need for it to become a chore, or cost the earth.

Basics first: decide on the overall colour scheme for napkins, crackers, flowers, candles and so on, one which complements your best dinner service. Gold, silver, white, dark green and red are the traditional colours, but the more adventurous could try teaming pink with silver and dark green, ice blue with white, and gold with orange and green.

Keep the same colours and the same theme throughout. Designer Pam Woods has used flowers and bows like those in her traditional centrepiece (immediate right) to glamorize an inexpensive cracker and an unusually-folded napkin. Her flowers are crêpe paper, dipped in wax (from slowly melting down old candles) to give crispness. Carefully stored they could be used year after year and with holly or ivy added they form an easy table centre.

As an alternative, loosely-rolled strips of kitchen foil, pinched together at one end to make flower shapes could be used. Carry through the silver theme by covering table mats in kitchen foil.

Another of Pam's quick ideas is to spray nuts, fruit and dried flower heads with silver or gold paint. After spraying, which should be done outside or in an outhouse, pile the gilded fruit and nuts into a bowl or basket. Crumpled foil or tissue underneath will give added bulk and height. Flowers can be arranged in a vase.

Andrew Hardy of Harvey Nichols created a more modern table centrepiece (above, far right) using decorations from their Christmas Shop and a grid tray from the household department. His idea takes only minutes to put together and is easily copyable using your own decorations. An edible centrepiece has lots

of appeal. You may be full of turkey and Christmas pudding, but there is usually room for the odd sweet or piece of fruit. Cookery broadcaster and writer Mary Berry always has a pyramid of satsumas or tangerines on show. She uses a white and gold Sévres cake stand - a family heirloom - but any plain white stand would do. Glossy bay or laurel leaves arranged round the edge of the plate form a base. The satsumas are then piled into a pyramid with sprigs of holly to fill the gaps.

Neat Napkin
An attractively folded napkin like the one illustrated here is very quick and easy to do. Although it looks best if you use linen napkins, large thick paper ones will create almost the same effect.

1 Lay the napkin flat.

David Hart

A sophisticated fruity fizz involves packing a very large wine glass or brandy balloon with silver baubles and frosted grapes.

To frost the grapes, brush small clusters with lightly beaten egg, dredge them with caster sugar, then leave to dry on a wire rack.

Marzipan fruits are traditional Christmas fare. If time is short, you could buy a selection from a good baker or confectioner, but as they require no cooking making them is an

ideal pre-Christmas pastime for the children.

To make 25 to 30 fruits you need a 250g (8.82oz) packet of marzipan; yellow, green, orange, red and brown food colourings; cloves; an artist's brush and a nutmeg grater. Divide the marzipan into three, and knead green, orange or yellow colouring into each third.

Make the green marzipan into apple shapes and paint on a rosy glow with the red colouring. Use a clove for the top and

7 Arrange in a wine glass and decorate with a waxed flower or a sprig of holly.

Taken from 'A Guide to Napkin Folding' by James Ginders, £4.95, published by International Thompson Publishing, Northwood House, Goswell Road, London EC1.

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Glimpses behind the mask of a master clown

For once we have a subject that video does proud. Not only are most of the best Chaplin films available on cassette - the early one and two-reelers as well as the features - but there are now two worthwhile and complementary documentaries on his life and work.

The Gentleman Tramp, made in the United States and narrated by Walter Matthau, is a straightforward introduction, useful both for those coming upon Chaplin for the first time and as a refresher course for the initiated. It summarizes Chaplin's career up to that embarrassing episode of the special Oscar in 1971 and provides generous extracts from the films.

Without pressing the point too far, the cassette links life and art by showing how the films were often rooted in personal experience. Thus *The Tramp* refers back to Chaplin's childhood in the London slums of Kennington and *A King in New York* reflects, with less subtlety and more bitterness, his treatment by the American authorities which led to his exile in Switzerland. The tape has the bonus of the 1919 two-reeler, *Sunrise*.

While *The Gentleman Tramp* is an assembly of mainly familiar material, *Unknown Chaplin* includes much that has never been shown in public before, as well as rare interviews with Lita Grey, Chaplin's second wife, and two of his leading ladies, Georgia Hale from *The Gold Rush* and Virginia Cherrill from *City Lights*.

Originally transmitted as a three-part series by Thames Television, *Unknown Chaplin* came about through Lady Chaplin making her film vaults available to those indefatigable cine-archaeologists, Kevin Brownlow and David Gill. With the American collector Raymond Rohauer also yielding up much unseen material, Brownlow and Gill found themselves

The Gentleman Tramp (1974, 72 mins)/Sunrise (1919, 18 mins) PolyGram, £23 Unknown Chaplin (1983, 156 mins) Thorn EMI, £57.50

with a treasure-house of rushes, out-takes, complete sequences shot, cut but never used, and home movies.

What emerges from their expert compilation is a surprising endorsement of Edison's view that genius is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration. Chaplin worked out his films as he went along, having no script and relying on his talent and intuition to carry him through. Often the ideas would not come, and the results were endless retakes of the same scene, gags elaborately worked out and then abandoned, and actors and crews standing by for days, weeks and even months waiting for the little man's creativity to return.

The cassette is most revealing about *City Lights*. At one stage, of 534 days scheduled for shooting, 368 had been idle. Halfway through Chaplin fired Virginia Cherrill and started all over again with Georgia Hale, only to recall Cherrill (at twice the salary) when he realized that the project was too far advanced. He also spent much time and effort shooting a seven-minute routine that was to have opened the film before deciding not to use it.

These insights into Chaplin at work only serve to re-whet the appetite for the finished article. Tapes available (all on PolyGram, prices £3 to £37.50) include *The Gold Rush*, *The Circus*, *City Lights*, *Modern Times*, *The Great Dictator*, *Monsieur Verdoux* and *Lime-light*, with *A Woman of Paris* due next year.

Peter Waymark

Next week: Video round-up of 1983



Chaplin and his leading lady Cherrill: He fired and rehired her during the shooting of *City Lights*

Graphic designs on the birds and bees

Most aspects of life are already covered by video. So it may come as no surprise that you can now learn to hatch and match, though not, as yet, in dispatch.

"Learning to love and finding out about the facts of life is not always easy", says Marje Proops at the start of her version of the birds and bees. More agony than fun, she introduces us to Janet and John, two cartoon characters who marry while young and ignorant, and end up sending her anxious letters about sex.

The video describes the changes of puberty and the processes of reproduction with the help of some anaemic graphics. Anxieties are allayed all round, though several animated line drawings of a couple making love might disturb, rather than reassure, some of the young teenagers at whom the cassette is aimed.

In fact there is precious little real help here for the youngster, no hard information, for example, on contraception or how to cope with teenage pregnancy. Just young teenagers in group discussions, relating their problems: "Me dad told me 'e dug me up in the garden and when I saw me I screamed at me run indoors."

The BBC's *Having a Baby* reflects its origins as an educational series. Filmed largely at Bristol Maternity Hospital, it offers a comprehensive guide to conception, pregnancy, labour and early parenthood, with the aid of clear graphics. We follow four

Learning to Love with Marje Proops (60 mins) Video Space, £19.95 Having a Baby (108 mins) BBC Video, £41.95 The New Good Birth Guide by Sheila Kitzinger (120 mins) Palace Video, £19.95

couples from different backgrounds as they visit their GPs, clinics and antenatal classes; we share their hopes and fears, and accompany two of the mothers into labour. Later they and their husbands describe the effect of their babies on their lives.

This comprehensive account would be useful as an educational film for older teenagers as well as for mothers-to-be, and would grace an antenatal class; but it is an establishment product and that shows, for example, when a physiotherapist tells her class they will be taught to be passive in the first stage of labour, active in the second...

Passivity of any kind would, of course, be anathema to Sheila Kitzinger, high priestess of natural childbirth, whose *New Good Birth Guide* is aimed exclusively at parents-to-be and is essentially a consumer guide. Little of the material will be new to women who have

attended a good National Childbirth Trust class.

Most of the action takes place in Mrs Kitzinger's sitting room, where a group of articulate, middle-class women, some with their men in tow, talk of their attitudes and expectations about the births of their babies.

For "partners" (no "husbands" here) there's a special apron filled with 300s of sand to bring home the reality of late pregnancy. Effective use is also made of rag dolls.

Mrs Kitzinger is an inspiring teacher, sound on advice as to how to choose the place of birth or refuse a *caesarean*, controversial in her advocacy of home births and positively effusive over relaxation techniques as alternatives to analgesia. But I wonder how many mothers would agree that the crowning of a baby's head felt like the petals of a peony opening?

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John Piper
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Piper is perhaps best known for his romantic landscape painting, but his work in stained glass, ceramics, fabrics and theatre design, now shown together for the first time, fully demonstrates his versatility.

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No Advance Booking

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James Steer. CLO 1.15pm Sat 1.15pm
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Booking

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ART GALLERIES

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1983. 1.15pm Sat 1.15pm 2.30-3.30
Paintings, drawings and sculpture.
1980-82. British. Bonhams. Gilt
and George. CLO 1.15pm Sat 10.45pm

WILDESTEIN 1.15pm Sat 1.15pm
11.45pm. REINE ATAZARI
1983. 1.15pm Sat 1.15pm 2.30-3.30
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

CAROLS: The Royal Choral Society under Meredith Davies leads the singing in the traditional family carol concert today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and on Mon at 7.30pm, tickets £1.25-£7. On Tues there is a Victorian Christmas celebration, with Prunella Scales as Queen Victoria and Robert Hardy as Prince Albert, at 7.30pm, £1.25-£7. Julian Lloyd-Webber, Roger Whittaker and the Goldsmiths Choral Union sing carols in aid of the Save the Children Fund, attended by Princess Anne, on Wed at 7pm, tickets £1-£10. And the New National Youth Choir give a Christmas concert on Thurs at 7.30pm, tickets £1.25-£5. Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (589 8212).

SOUTH BANK CAROLS: The Messed Choirs of the London Hospitals are joined by the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Corps of Signals in two concerts today in the Royal Festival Hall, at 3pm and 7.30pm, tickets £2-£5.50, while the City of London Choir and Farnby Brass Ensemble lead carols in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm, tickets £2-£4.50. Tomorrow's concert is by the Goldsmiths Choral Union in the RPH, 3.15pm and 7.30pm, tickets £1.25-£6 and by the English Chamber Orchestra accompanying the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, at the GEC, 7.15pm, £2-£7. More details from RPH on Mon at 7.30pm and from the GEC on Tues at 7.45pm. South Bank, London SE1 (283 3191).

MESSIAH: Handel's oratorio receives several performances this week. Today it is the turn of St Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, London, SW1 at 7.30pm, tickets £3. Tomorrow, Jane Glover conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.30pm, tickets £2-£7; and Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia and the Richard Hickox Singers at the Barbican at 7pm, £2-£7. On Wed, the RPO de Riviera conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Chelsea Harmonic Society at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45pm, tickets £2.50-£5.50.

PETER PAN: The Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of J. M. Barrie's fantasy opens on Thurs at 7pm, with Mark Rylance as Peter, Stephen Moore as Mr Darling and Captain Hook, Frances Tomelty as Mrs Darling and Katy Beahan as Wendy. John Card directs. Barbican (628 8795/638 8891). Preview today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.30pm, until Jan 28. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Tues (except Jan 3), Thurs and Sat (also Jan 2) at 2pm.

SINBAD THE SAILOR: Ken Dodd and his Diddymen feature in this first London revival of the show since 1907. With Michael Robbins, Jacqueline Toye. Wimbledon Theatre (540 0362). Opens today at 2.30pm and 7pm. Until Feb 4, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm (matines only on Dec 24, Jan 8, 22, 29, evenings only on Jan 6, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, Feb 3).

THE YEARS BETWEEN: First radio production of Daphne du Maurier's play, staged in London in 1945, about a husband and wife trying to pick up the threads after a long wartime separation. Radio 4, 8.30-10pm.



Stimulating steps: Three moves from "Nine Sinsina Songs" by Shelley Washington and Keith Young of Twyla Tharp (see Dance)

Tomorrow

PELICAN DELTA: The delta of the River Danube is the most important remaining area for wildlife in Europe, twice the size of the Camargue and home for more than 45 species of fish and hundreds of species of birds from Europe, Asia and Africa. Not surprising, then, that the Danube, which flourishes in the lakes and channels leading out to the Black Sea.

Director/cameraman Alan McGregor presents a filmed report on the region, which is threatened by both drainage and agriculture. BBC2, 7.45-8.40pm.

PRANKS: The Forty Minutes documentary takes a light-hearted seasonal look at various unlikely services available for hire, including a couple of stripping nuns (who have set up in Business with a government grant); and amorous pair who are engaged to liven up sedate parties and the boozing trade in kissograms. BBC2, 9.35-10.15pm.

Monday

PAINTINGS QUIZ: The National Gallery is running two quizzes which demand a more careful look at its paintings. For adults, the quiz comprises a series of clues whose answers follow a seasonal theme. Five £25 vouchers for use in the gallery's shop will reward correct solutions opened on Jan 9. For children, the quiz begins on Dec 27 and has a ghostly theme, including a question about the extra foot in *The Three Magi*.

There is also a ghost story cartoon competition. Prizes are the prizes. The National Gallery, London WC2 (339 3242). Competitions open until Jan 8, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm (gallery closed Dec 23-26 and Jan 1). Free.

LUNCHEON AT THE PALACE: A week of lunchtime entertainment at the Palace Theatre, organised by its owner, Andrew Lloyd Webber. Today, The Actor's Centre Choir sings carols, aided by Bonnie Langford and Sarah Brightman. Tomorrow the Kosh dance; on Wed.

THE YEARS BETWEEN: First radio production of Daphne du Maurier's play, staged in London in 1945, about a husband and wife trying to pick up the threads after a long wartime separation. Radio 4, 8.30-10pm.

Family Life

Hints for reluctant yuletide hostesses

In the carefree days of my youth, before I learned to drive or had children, I used to look forward to Christmas. On the morning of Christmas Eve I would take a taxi to Liberty's, sweep through the emporium buying silk scarves, cravats and key-rings, then out again to find another cab, pausing only for a large brandy in Verneys. I would ask the second cab driver to stop at the market where I would pick up a bird, a few pounds of sprouts and a sprig of mistletoe, and then I would go home.

It was always an expensive outing, but undertaken with a certain style, and I wish that the girl who salied forth with only a large cheque-book in her handbag were alive today instead of the woman who is fretting about the fact that she hasn't yet bought a Christmas present, made a mince pie or sent out a single card.

It's the same every year,



about mud-November I nudge myself and swear to follow the Guides' motto to be prepared - then studiously ignore all the orange and red alerts that warn of the impending event.

It is partly because I genuinely object to what we all now accept with resignation - the horrendous over-commercialization of what should be a religious or family affair; and partly because, though I have great affection for panic or deadlines, they are so much a part of my life that without the adrenaline that accompanies them, I feel no sense of urgency, like a spring without a coil or a houseman without a bleep.

Had I had my way, we would all be off to a hotel this Christmas - somewhere with deep pile carpets and interior-sprung mattresses, in an atmosphere that would envelop us with its hospitality and yuletide efficiency and where all the chefs would do the work.

But the family will have none of it. For them Christmas has to be all about making puddings and pies, dressing the tree, wrapping presents in secrecy and opening them noisily at dawn. They like their local carol singers, the bustle of friends crossing our threshold on Christmas morning bringing bottles and good cheer - and best of all the sight of me staggering to the table bearing the golden goose. Christmas, they say year after year, would not be the same if we weren't at home.

I do have friends who manage to get away from it all - but they are, to man and woman, either rich or childless or both. Not for them the fingers scalded trying to peel the chestnuts to go with the sprouts (which only half the family likes anyway); or the in-laws who don't speak to each other but would be offended not to be asked; or the friend who hasn't a home to go to and decides to visit yours for a quick drink on Christmas morning and has to be put to bed (one of yours), very drunk, twelve hours later.

While sardonic friends sit sipping Lowenbrau above some snowy piste, or sun themselves on a Caribbean beach, I - and thousands like me - will be doing my damndest to see that

those I love - and some that I don't - are having the Christmases of their lives; and wondering as I do each year, whether it is worth all the effort and expense.

And provided nobody dies, slips a disc, sets light to the dog, has a massive row or crashes the car (all of which I have known to happen), I will of course conclude that it is.

Now I must make my list - and just in case any of you is as absent-minded or short-sighted as me I will commit it to paper: Make list of everything I need from toilet rolls to tin foil. Get family to check and add to it.

Plan to visit supermarket early, one morning with two helpers, one to find boxes and carry same to car and one to cross off items as we go.

Save all carboard boxes because dustbins are never big enough.

Buy twice as much wrapping paper. Sellotape, butter and cream as I'll need.

Buy half as many nuts and dates (I still have last year's).

Prepare and freeze mince pies, stuffings, sausage rolls and brandy butter.

Make note in diary to remove same from freezer the day before Christmas Eve.

Get butcher to weigh turkey/goose so I'll know how long to cook it and we won't sit down for dinner at 10pm on Christmas night.

Buy half a dozen presents for

unexpected guests and a dozen extra cards plus stamps for friends we thought had forgotten us.

Make another list of all distant friends and family to telephone with seasonal greetings.

Buy large bottle of Alka Seltzer, tablets, Vitamins B, C, E and Paracetamol for those who didn't know when to stop.

Buy three times as many cigarettes as I otherwise would (all those who are trying to give up will make exceptions because it's Christmas and smoke mine).

Find out what time midnight mass really starts this year and allow twice as much time as I think I need to get there, park and find a seat that isn't behind a pillar.

Ensure there's plenty of soda - for drinks and to squire on spiltages.

Decide now how much I'm going to spend on presents and exceed it only by half as much again.

Buy myself a little something to slip into on Christmas morning as what is bought for me will either not fit or be too good to risk ruining in my attempts to achieve a balance between being-mother/wife/cook and hostess.

Put this list in my diary for Monday morning so I won't forget I've made it.

Happy Christmas.

Judy Froshaug

Information on these sales on 01-839 9060/930 8870

Christie's St. James's

8 King Street

London SW1

Sales Opportunities 1984

Silver

2nd February

Entries close 23 December

English Furniture

23rd February

Entries close 23 December

Old Master Pictures

24th February

Entries close 23 December

Early Furniture

1st March

Entries close 3 January

Wine

1st March

Entries close 3 January

Victorian Pictures

2nd March

Entries close 4 January

Information on these sales on 01-839 9060/930 8870

Christie's St. James's will be closed from 4.00 pm on Friday, 23 December to 9.00 am on Wednesday, 28 December, and will also be closed on Monday, 2 January.

For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington, please contact:

85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7

Tel: 01-581 2371/3679

Outings

aged 10-17. Apply to the lectures' secretary for tickets.

DISCOVERY ROOM Science Museum, South Kensington, SW7 (563 3458). Mon until Jan 7, Mon-Sat 11.30am-4.15pm. Free.

A selection of "hands on" experiments and demonstrations for children - and adults.

MACHINES AND MOTION The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, W1 (493 6470). Tues-Fri and Sun 10am-5pm, Mon 2.30-5pm. Tickets for all adults £1.25, children 24-51, children £1. An excellent programme of lectures for adults and children

LOOKING INTO SPACE The Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (821 1313). Today until Jan 8 except Dec 23-25 and Jan 1, Mon-Sat 11am-5.30pm, Sun 2pm-5.30pm. Free.

The Tate's Christmas Tree looks at ways in which artists have achieved space and depth in their pictures. Also until Jan 5, the annual Christmas Tree Guessing Game - prizes for children who guess the number of cards.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A Crocker full of trouble for Midland

To judge from Crocker Bank's losses the end of Midland Bank's suffering is not yet in sight. Midland has had more than its share of misfortune; for example, Lord Armstrong's untimely death in 1980 was followed by an unsatisfactory and uncertain interregnum.

But two important strategic errors of the bank's own making have caused more serious problems than malign fate. Midland dallied and dallied far too long before making a move into the United States, preferring correspondent banking and the consortium approach to the world's most important banking market.

It also opted for a stifling management structure: in Mr Stuart Graham and Mr Malcolm Wilcox the bank had two equally powerful chief general managers, whose energies seemed to be taken up more in opposing each other than in restoring the bank to something like its previous eminence.

Divide and rule may occasionally be a useful principle in structuring senior management but division without rule has nothing to commend it. The Midland board finally recognized its error and appointed Mr Geoffrey Taylor in 1982 as sole chief executive in succession to Mr Graham and Mr Wilcox.

The legacy he left him was not enviable and it will take a long time to sort out. Meanwhile, there is Crocker.

Thursday night's news from California that Crocker has moved into the red this year and will halve its dividend confirms some of the worst fears about the quality and performance of Midland's 57 per cent-owned subsidiary. Crocker is making a special \$107m charge to meet non-repayment of property and farming loans, which will mean a fourth-quarter loss of \$57m and a loss for 1983 of about \$10m.

Midland's profits as a result of Crocker's "prudence" will be cut by £75m. Midland paid an average of \$67.4m (\$825m in total) for its Crocker shares; yesterday the price was \$23.5.

Midland's investment, which because it is so large and because it is in the United States, is crucial to the bank and its shareholders. As Midland, which completed the deal in January, was about the last in the line of foreign buyers of US banks, it was hardly in a position to buy the best.

Generally US banks are available only if they are poorly managed and/or they have exceptional difficulties with which they cannot cope. Crocker had built up heavy

Secrets of a Telecom engineer

If you want some plumbing done, say, British Telecom engineers can usually oblige. They cannot be accused of moonlighting because, in my experience, the work is done in daylight when ordinary people are trying to get through to British Telecom to find out why they cannot have a telephone installed without waiting weeks. But I am not in the market at the moment, for water pipes or bathroom fixtures. However, I would like a Prestel unit.

As you may know, you cannot have a prestel unit until BT's engineers have put in the appropriate jack. They insist on a jack monopoly, although it is simple to install. Four weeks ago my Prestel equipment supplier informed BT. Three and a half weeks later nothing had happened; or it seemed nothing had happened. In fact BT engineers arrived at the door on Wednesday, but as no one was in, they went away without even disturbing



Geoffrey Taylor: Legacy to sort out.

and vulnerable loan positions in Latin America. It had a deep commitment in real estate lending in California and, again in common with other US banks, it was running into a period of intensifying pressure on margins.

Flat corporate loan demand and, more significantly, deregulation of American banking, which has brought fiercer and costlier competition for deposits in the past 12 months, are making the going tough.

Midland's acquisition of Crocker is, therefore, a high cost and high risk venture. Banking in the United States for foreigners is not the easiest game in the world at the best of times. Moreover, Midland agreed to handicap itself at the start.

The Federal Reserve Board concurred with Crocker's insistence that it should be allowed to run its own affairs, without direction or interference from London.

Midland had virtually no warning of the huge provisions on property loans and appears to have been kept in the dark about the seriousness of the situation.

This is clearly now going to change. Two of Midland's main board directors are off to California to agree with Crocker's senior management "specific ways of improving performance and to determine future working relationships between Midland and Crocker".

The affair could scarcely have come at a worse time for Midland which has just begun to get profits moving ahead again and appeared to be coming to grips with some of its long-standing problems. It now has to start all-over again rebuilding its credibility. Yesterday Midland's shares fell 53p to 384p.

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● Mortgages

Policy option

Investors with a maturing London Life endowment policy will now have the option of reinvesting the proceeds in a London Life unit-linked investment bond. This has the advantage of allowing taxpayers to take tax-free income by partial encashments of the bond.

Though the proceeds of a conventional with-profits endowment are tax-free, most people need to reinvest the lump sum and any income generated by the reinvestment is subject to income tax at the taxpayers' highest rate - plus the investment income surcharge.

Loans link

Personal loans from Midland Bank are available to investors who keep a minimum of £100 in Nationwide Building Society's building account. This is a valuable service to Nationwide customers who do not have a bank account and would otherwise have to go to a building society to make a hire purchase or other credit agreement at much higher rates of interest.

Midland Bank charges between 18 and 19 per cent on personal loans depending on the term - not as cheap as an overdraft, but cheaper than most HP or credit card borrowing.

Tax surprise

Starting differentials in top rates of tax come to light in a new guide *Personal Taxes Around the World*, produced by the international accountants, Spicer Oppenheim.

The trend towards wealth taxes is reflected in the fact that they now apply in nine of the 24 countries covered in the guide.

The book complements the previous title in the series, *Corporate Taxes Around the World*, and is available from Spicer and Pepler, St Mary Axe House, 56-60 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BJ, price £2.50.

Mortgage hope

Housebuyers having difficulty getting a mortgage should try Stipson Building Society, which announce this week that it has funds available to lend to members and non-members. Mrs Margaret manager, Mrs Terry Adams, said: "Please, not only look after the mortgage needs of our own members without delay, but we can also offer mortgage facilities - sometimes up to 95 per cent - to certain non-members who may be experiencing delays with other building societies".



Some insurance premiums can be discounted if more than one car is to be covered

Dearer motoring

Legal and General is increasing motor insurance premiums by 7 per cent. "But the company says: defending its price like: a number of car groups have been reduced for rating purposes, and a whole series of accounts have been introduced."

Under the Private Car policy, up to 50 per cent reductions can be obtained for experienced drivers taking out a policy of their own for the first time and there are

discounts if more than one car is insured. But these discounts could be valueless if the initial premium is not competitive. A good way to check is to ring Automobile Association Insurance Services which will give you a quote on the telephone for insuring your car.

Incentives book

Small businesses needing to know how to get the most out of Government and local authority incentive schemes should

obtain a copy of Robson Rhodes, the accountants' latest publication.

Government Incentives and Assistance for Industry in the UK, lists everything from youth employment subsidies to EEC loans and grants to the coal and steel industry.

Did you know that interest-free loans are available to building operatives or that 15 man-days' unpaid maternity can be obtained from the Design Council for engineering and industrial companies with design problems? It is all in the book. Perhaps the best part is the comprehensive list of names and addresses.

Chip chat

Help is at hand for the difficult business of choosing a computer. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has published a guide called *Making a Success of Microcomputing in your Business*.

The book suggests sources of unbiased advice, and includes guidelines for a computer contract and a plan for assessing requirements. There is a glossary of technical terms - essential if you are one of those who believe computer programmes are knitting patterns.

Dr David Jackson and Dr Sam Lucas,

the authors, are founder members of the Microcomputer Advisory Service at Manchester University. Ian Pannell is a consultant with the Small Firms Advisory Service at the Department of Industry.

Copies of the guide are available price £5.45 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BU.

Holiday credit

Holidaymakers who book a holiday through Intasun will be offered revolving credit facility from Boston Trust and Savings which allows them to borrow up to £3,000 at an annual rate of 23.8 per cent.

This is slightly more expensive than credit card borrowing, and about 5 per cent higher than bank personal loans, but a useful facility for any one without a bank account.

Mr Graham Telford, director of Boston Trust & Savings, said: "We expect many people will use the Boston Freedom Credit Account to help finance their next holiday." Borrowers will also get a chequebook, bankers card and monthly statements. Boston has 20 money order counters nationwide, five of them in Debenham's department stores.

be helped in this way if they are not taxpayers.

It is important to be aware that income arising from any gifts made by parents to minor children will be assessed on the parents. It is therefore preferable to use non-income producing investments such as National Savings certificates, regular or single premium life policies or bonds.

Giving beyond your family, regular gifts under deeds of

cottontail

to charities up to £5,000 gross annually provide relief additionally against higher rates of income tax and investment income surcharge.

Charitable covenants need run for only four years compared with seven years for other covenants.

Regular gifts out in income can also be exempt from CTT and those may be suitable for deeds of covenant which can give rise additionally to a saving of basic rate income tax.

But there is no tax saving on

covenanted gifts to your own

children, under the age of 18.

Nephews, nieces and grand-

children of any age and your

own children of 18 or above can

be helped in this way if they are not taxpayers.

It is important to be aware that income arising from any gifts made by parents to minor children will be assessed on the parents. It is therefore preferable to use non-income producing investments such as National Savings certificates, regular or single premium life policies or bonds.

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cottontail

to charities up to £5,000 gross annually provide relief additionally against higher rates of income tax and investment income surcharge.

Charitable covenants need run for only four years compared with seven years for other covenants.

Should you not wish to covenant to a particular charity, or your gifts to charities and charitable causes tend to be spasmodic, then consider the scheme run by the Charities Aid

Foundation under a regular

deed of covenant, which allows

you to switch between charities.

Gifts made to charities are now exempt without limit from CTT and capital gains tax.

● Unit trusts

Mortgages

Home loans queues may disappear

Home loans will be easier to come by in the New Year and mortgage queues may disappear altogether.

This will exert upward pressure on house prices so avoid delay if you are thinking of moving house. By April, the house you want could cost considerably more.

The building societies need to attract about £700m a month to maintain present levels and last month's receipts of £270m meant the £700m ceiling had been exceeded each month since August.

December is looking healthier and January is always a good month as interest is credited to investors' accounts.

Add to this the fact that the societies do not have a Building Societies Association Council meeting in January so no decision to cut rates can be made until February (unless a special meeting is called) and the likelihood is that the societies will be awash with money by March.

Most societies can provide a loan within four weeks during the summer it was 12. But because house owners with more than one building society account often approach several societies there is much duplication of applications.

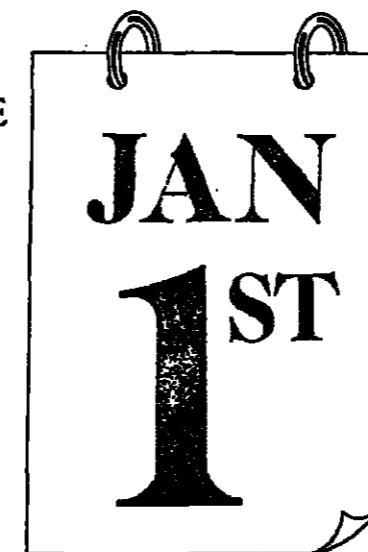
Once money is available, the queues could disappear.

About the only dark patch on an otherwise bright horizon is that interest rates generally have hardened a little. During the New Year tax-gathering season, demand for money is higher than average and there could be further upward pressure on bank base rates.

COME IN ROLL-UP INVESTORS YOUR TIME'S UP

If you're a 'roll-up' fund private investor looking for a profitable, flexible alternative then the new EXTRA VALUE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT from Standard Chartered in Jersey, offers a unique combination of benefits:

- * Minimum deposit of just £1,000
- * Interest accrued daily and paid quarterly
- * Personalised cheque-book
- * UK cheque-card
- * No bank charges
- * Monthly statements



* Standing orders and direct debits

* No minimum drawing level

* Other offshore investment opportunities

In short, the Standard Chartered Extra Value Deposit Account provides all the advantages of an interest bearing current account. So if you want to make the most of your assets in the New Year fill in and return the coupon for full details.

This advertisement, which is placed on behalf of Standard Chartered Bank (C.I.) Limited by Standard Chartered Bank PLC, is merely an invitation to obtain more details on the Account.



To: Standard Chartered Bank (C.I.) Limited,
PO Box 89, Conwy Street, St. Helier 54, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Please send me further details of the EXTRA VALUE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT and an Application form.

Name _____

Address _____

A Roll-Up Alternative

Capital Gains

Barlow Clowes have introduced PORTFOLIO 78 as a realistic alternative for roll-up fund investors. This is what PORTFOLIO 78 offers:

- * An excellent investment service for higher rate taxpayers.
- * Security - your Portfolio will always be in a British Government Stock or cash.
- * A high guaranteed return, stated in advance.
- * The return is a genuine capital gain from the purchase and sale of gilts.
- * These gains are not generated by converting accrued interest into capital gains.
- * Concise monthly statements.
- * Option to take a monthly income.
- * Open ended - withdrawals at any time within 2 working days.

For details, complete and return the coupon without delay.

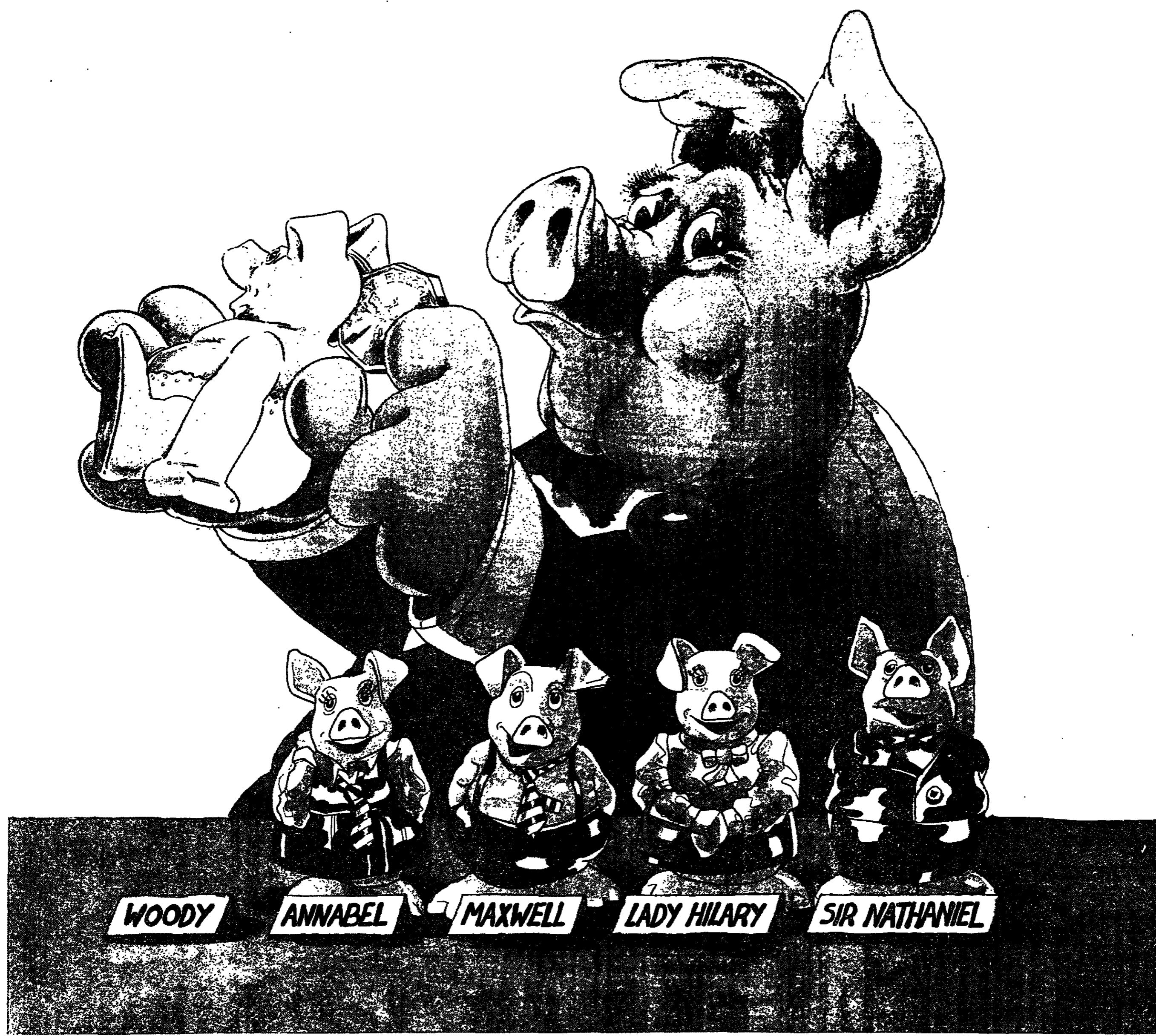
Barlow Clowes & Partners
Gill Edged Specialists

To: Barlow Clowes & Partners, Wimford Court, Thompson Street, London EC2N 2AT.
Telephone: 01-588 0838 (24-hour answering service).
Please send me details of PORTFOLIO 78 without obligation.
Name _____
Address _____

Standard Chartered Bank (C.I.) Limited

A member of Standard Chartered Bank Group

AND THE FIRST LITTLE PIGGY WENT HOME.



The NatWest Piggy Bank is an exciting new saving scheme for younger children, designed around a family of beautiful porcelain pigs.

It works like this.

£3 opens a Piggy Bank Account, of which £1 covers membership. This includes a delightful "Woody Westminster" piggy bank and a saving pack.

The pack contains everything your child will need to run a NatWest Piggy Bank Account; membership card, paying-in book, wallet, explanatory brochure, account record book, Woody's Wobbly wall chart and painting crayons.

At the regular statement despatch dates in July and January, provided enough has been saved, the young NatWest Piggy Banker will receive the next piggy in the family absolutely free.

First, Woody's sister Annabel when the balance reaches £25, then elder brother Maxwell at £50, and mother and father - Lady Hilary and Sir Nathaniel - at £75 and £100 respectively.

Interest is paid twice a year in June and December initially at 5½%. Unlike the Building Societies, the NatWest Piggy Bank pays interest without deducting income tax.

The Piggy Bank is no ordinary saving scheme. The fun of collecting all five piggies provides a series of goals which will positively encourage your child to save.

For full details, trotter long to the Piggy Bank today.



NatWest
The Action Bank

National Westminster Bank PLC 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

RACING: CHAMPION TRAINER FANCIED TO TAKE TODAY'S TWO MAIN RACES

The Mighty Mac can stay ahead

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With Bregawn and Badsworth Boy both falling and Ashley House running indifferently things did not go according to plan for Michael Dickinson at Haydock Park earlier this week. However, the champion trainer has a knack of bouncing back and I expect him to do precisely that this afternoon by winning the day's two most valuable events at Ascot and Doncaster with The Mighty Mac (1.20) and Fearless Imp (2.00).

Dickinson knows what is required to win the SGB Steeplechase at Ascot, having done so 12 months ago with Captain John. However, the two are entirely different. Whereas Captain John had already shown himself to be an out-and-out stayer before his SGB success, the Mighty Mac has excelled only over shorter distances. So, his ability to stay three miles at this level has to be taken on trust, although it is only fair to point out that he

Three winners for Francome

John Francome completing his half century of winners for the season with a treble on Vendevore, End of Era and Star of Ireland at Fakenham yesterday. The champion jockey showed why the leader in the race for this season's crown, John O'Neill, his cause for concern with yet another polished performance, rounded off in an ornate style on Star of Ireland (11-4) in the West Norfolk Hurdle.

Alan Jarvis's promising recruit won on his fifth by lengths from the 5-2 joint favourite, Saranino. Francome said: "He will be suited by a more galloping track where you can switch him off and then use him speed."

Ascot

Going: good to firm
Tote Double: 1.20, 2.20, 3.20. Treble: 1.25, 1.55, 3.0
(Television (BBC1); 12.50, 1.20, 1.55 and 2.30 races)

12.15 KILLINLEY CHASE (novices: 25, 55s: 2m 4f (7 turners))

104 2101-2 CAPTAIN DYNAMO (I) (D) Nicholson 6-11-1 S Smith Eccles

104 2102-1 GOLDEN STONE (Wood) M Henderson 6-11-1 S Smith Eccles

105 2103-1 ACES WILD (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 5-10-13 J Francome

106 2202-1 BLACK ROD (A White) M Henderson 6-11-1 S Smith Eccles

109 2000-0 CULHAN (W Shedy) S Shedy 5-10-12 Mrs L Shedy

111 3 DOOR LATCH (J) Gifford 5-10-10 R. Rivers

11-4 Unown, 4-2 Captain Dynamo, 7-2 Ascot Wild, 8 Doon Latch, 12 Baser Ranger, 20 others.

12.50 H.S.S. FIRE SHOPS HURDLE (24.947: 2m) (12)

201 2102-2 ROBIN WONDER (A) (H) D Brough 5-11-13 J H Davies

202 2103-2 SULKA BULA (D) (G) Frank M H Easterby 5-11-3 Mr T Easterby

203 2202-2 GREAT LIGHT (S Amory) J Jarvis 5-11-3 S Smith Eccles

204 0402-0 GAINSBY (D) (S) Silver D Nicholson 5-10-13 P Sudducks

205 1101-0 HEDGEROW (A) (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 5-11-5 J Francome

213 4111 FAIRFIELD BOY (D) (C) Roach 5-10-13 B Wright

218 2113-4 ALASTOR O'MAVROS (D) (M) Persson J Gifford 4-10-8 P Nicholls

221 2102-1 KALAMONT (D) (Mrs L Simpson) J Gifford 4-10-8 R. Rivers

228 40-3262 PERAMBOR (D) (M) Walker K Stone 4-10-8 A Brown

11-4 Very Promising, 7-2 Sulka Bula, 8-2 Amory's Cottages, 8-2 Robin Wonder, 10 Kalamont, 12 Perambor, 16 Derolux.

FORM: Admire Cup (10-17) won 21st from Codd (race 16) 18m, Newbury 5m 100d, H/C up to 100d, 1st 100d, 2nd 100d, 3rd 100d, 4th 100d, 5th 100d, 6th 100d, 7th 100d, 8th 100d, 9th 100d, 10th 100d, 11th 100d, 12th 100d, 13th 100d, 14th 100d, 15th 100d, 16th 100d, 17th 100d, 18th 100d, 19th 100d, 20th 100d, 21st 100d, 22nd 100d, 23rd 100d, 24th 100d, 25th 100d, 26th 100d, 27th 100d, 28th 100d, 29th 100d, 30th 100d, 31st 100d, 32nd 100d, 33rd 100d, 34th 100d, 35th 100d, 36th 100d, 37th 100d, 38th 100d, 39th 100d, 40th 100d, 41st 100d, 42nd 100d, 43rd 100d, 44th 100d, 45th 100d, 46th 100d, 47th 100d, 48th 100d, 49th 100d, 50th 100d, 51st 100d, 52nd 100d, 53rd 100d, 54th 100d, 55th 100d, 56th 100d, 57th 100d, 58th 100d, 59th 100d, 60th 100d, 61st 100d, 62nd 100d, 63rd 100d, 64th 100d, 65th 100d, 66th 100d, 67th 100d, 68th 100d, 69th 100d, 70th 100d, 71st 100d, 72nd 100d, 73rd 100d, 74th 100d, 75th 100d, 76th 100d, 77th 100d, 78th 100d, 79th 100d, 80th 100d, 81st 100d, 82nd 100d, 83rd 100d, 84th 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RUGBY UNION

Selectors seek solution to a central problem

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The injury to Dodge, the Leicester centre, last weekend has added considerably to the interest of the Christmas club programme in England. His broken leg will prevent him from playing for a minimum of 10 weeks and this weekend the selectors are due to meet to discuss trial teams after pursuing their researches at Bath, Leicester and Coventry.

It is reasonable to assume that centres will be looked at with the most critical of eyes and, in that respect, it is unfortunate that Salmon, capped by New Zealand three times in 1981, has been forced by an ankle injury to drop out of the Harlequins side to play at Bath today. He would have provided Palmer, who was an England replacement throughout the 1980 grand slam season, with an admirable test.

Bath will be hoping to recover some equilibrium after the defeat last weekend against Gloucester, but they will be without their captain, Spurrell, who will be absent for six weeks after an operation on a knee. Cunningham, the hooker, is playing for the Anglo-Scots and the obvious replacement for Spurrell, the much-travelled Jones, is also injured. Bath therefore move Hall to open-side flank and retain Turner, while Bass' boys, Harlequins, also defeated last weekend, by Bedford, restore Thompson to the centre.

Dodge's absence from Leicester's ranks may mean an extended run in the centre for Bates, a converted scrum half who has impressed on several previous occasions. He came on as a replacement during last season's John Player Cup final, the last occasion on which Leicester and Bristol met, when Bristol took the cup for the first time.

The match also gives the Bristol midfield of Barnes, Hogg and Knibbs the opportunity to

Busy time for Irish

By George Ace

The Irish selectors face a busy evening following today's final trial at Lansdowne Road. They will convene immediately after the game, when an Irish squad will be named for the tour, which starts December 31 and will also see the Irish Rugby Union's President's XV for the match against Ulster under floodlights at Ravenhill, Belfast, on January 4.

Rarely does an Irish trial make any great impression on the opinions already held by the selectors after the inter provincial series. A clear indication of their thinking is apparent in the composition of the Probables side, which includes all of last season's team who shared the five nations championship with France, with the exception of tight head prop Gerry McLoughlin, who is still under contract to a club, and full back Hugo MacNeill, who withdrew with a leg injury. McLoughlin's place goes to the

Probables: J Murphy (Cavan); P Flynn (Galway); D O'Brien (Galway); N Kieran (Lancashire); M Finn (Cork Constitution); O Campbell (Ulster); P Flanagan (Ulster); S Murphy, captain; J McCloskey (Lancashire); J O'Driscoll (London Irish); D Lenihan (Cork Constitution); M Keane (London Irish); S Sutcliffe (Salford); N Duggan (Blackrock); T Murphy (Lancashire); N McEvoy (Lancashire); T Ward (St Mary's); T Doyle (Cork Constitution); Langtree (Cork Constitution); G O'Farrell (London Irish); M Fitzpatrick (Lancashire); captain, R Kearney (London Irish); J Glanion (Shane); B McCullagh (London Irish); D G McHugh (Ulster); Referee: D Burnell (Lancaster)

Win will ensure share of title for South

By Iain Mackenzie

South of Scotland, who have scored 59 points and conceded only two penalty goals so far in their attempt to retain the Scottish interdistrict championship, will ensure at least a share of the title if they beat Edinburgh at Myreside this weekend. A win will give them six points from three games.

Glasgow, who have already beaten Edinburgh and the North & Midlands, would then be the only district with any chance of preventing the South from winning their twelfth title outright. They travel to Hawick on Christmas Eve and an unexpected victory there would give them the championship outright for only the third time, or, alternatively, a share of it, depending on the result at Myreside.

Had today's match been scheduled for the Borders, they would

The Iron Duke has a lot to answer

Why George Washington is sure to meet her Waterloo

The name George Washington staring out at me from an article about women's tennis is a reminder of the uneasy part played by popular history in sports journalism. I have often been picked up in the middle of reading a piece on some blameless pastime and deposited among the legs of the charging Light Brigade or at the bottom of a shell crater at Passchendaele.

The Duke of Wellington has much to answer for. Not only did he defeat Napoleon at Waterloo, but he is also supposed to have said that that battle was won on the playing fields of Eton. He described it as "a damned nice thing - the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life", which ever since, in newspaper accounts of a myriad sporting contests, has been garbled into "a close run thing".

Henry V exhorting his army before Agincourt is a convenient image for a captain motivating the lads in the dressing room, and Drake ignoring the Armada and stopping to finish his game of bowls will serve for any ice-cool English sportsman in a crisis. When "the Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead" in Newbolt's poem, a schoolboy rallies the ranks in the desert with his cry of "Play up! play up! and play the game!"

Concern over death of Poles

By Chris Than

The mysterious and bizarre circumstances surrounding the deaths of two Polish players are puzzling officials of the Paris-based Federation Internationale de Rugby Association (FIRA).

FIRA held an emergency session today in Paris to discuss the Polish failure to fulfil their recent fixture against Italy in Padua.

Serious doubts are now being expressed about Poland's future participation in FIRA's 18-nations championship and the Italians were earlier today as the Poles called off the match only days before it was due to take place and with all the preparations had been completed.

A strange story emerged when FIRA contacted the Polish Federation. The Poles said that they called off the game because of the accidental death of two key players. According to the chairman of FIRA's Technical Commission, Czeslaw Dziedzic of Warsaw, the Polish Federation claimed that following the deaths the authorities refused to allow the team to travel to Italy. Their decision seemed less surprising when some details about the bizarre circumstances emerged.

According to a reliable source, the first to die was one of the Polish props, Pleszek. After the game against Romania in Bucharest, he was found dead in his bed at the Hotel York. His England colleague, the English champion and Steve Harris, his England colleague, will face some formidable opposition from Gidamis Shahanga and Zachariah Barie, of Tanzania, in the 10-kilometre event. The Africans finished first and second in a five mile road race in Los Angeles last week, both taking 22min 30sec.

The mystery has deepened with the death of a second, so far unnamed player in Poland several days later. While the first death, unfortunate as it was, could have been explained, the second one set up a pattern and made it difficult to be dismissed as a mere accident.

This chain of events raised a number of difficult questions. Was it drug? Did it also kill one of the two Polish players suffer from a heart complaint? But then why was he allowed to play? It is widely known that players in Eastern Europe are not licensed to play unless they undergo a thorough medical check-up before the beginning of the season.

Another club still looking for their first defeat - are O'Reilly, who go to Wakefield, where they should maintain their splendid record. Wakefield, however, have more than a passing interest in England's central problems, since they have the young Yorkshire centre, Barfey, as a live contender.

CROSS COUNTRY



Bayi: making tracks for the steeplechase at Los Angeles.

Africans run into a surprise at Ipswich

By Pat Butcher

David Moorcroft was in some doubt yesterday about his chances of contesting the International Athletes Club race in Ipswich this afternoon, after a midweek stomach bug.

Hutchings and Harris, who won the Rank-Xerox 10 kilometre road race in Battersea two weeks ago, have the talent to get among the very best in the world at 3,000 metres. It was a shame that they, like Moorcroft, had to miss the first world championships in Helsinki last August. Moorcroft and Hutchings were injured and Harris will be missing from the race.

It is highly unlikely that these questions and many others will ever be answered. However, FIRA should demand a full explanation from the Poles and introduce as a matter of pre-regular anti-doping tests for the international games played under their jurisdiction.

FIRA's 18-nations championship, the largest rugby competition anywhere in the world, is split into three groups. The senior group of six countries is made up of France, Romania, Morocco, and the Soviet Union, Italy and Poland. The two winners of the second division group gain promotion to the top group.

A spokesman for FIRA said that according to the Federation's bylaws Poland have lost the Padua place by forfeit, although the Italians seem willing to play at a later date.

Top FIRA officials are worried since Poland have played only one game so far and their withdrawal could leave the remaining four countries France, Morocco and the Soviet Union.

FIRA is also running an under-19 international tournament with 14 countries but officials in Paris said that the problem of the Polish team in the senior group will not affect the plans for a junior competition scheduled to take place in Poland next year.

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Saturday

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 17 1983

Television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

Sunday

BBC 1

25 **Inch High Private Eye:** American cartoon series; 9.00 Saturday Super Store: Guests include Duran Duran and Boy George; 10.30 *Patent Pending*; The Dukes, Tracy Ulmer, The Police and Stade; Plus Sarah Greene with some ideas on Christmas gifts. Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.40 News bulletin; 12.45 Ascot Racing; 12.50 Sports round-up (general survey); 1.15 Ascot Racing: the SGS Handicap Stakes; 1.30 Relay race from the Autumn Rover Rally, from Donington; 1.55 Ascot Racing: we're back to 1.55; 2.05 Relay race back to Donington; 2.25 Ascot Racing: the 12.50; 1.05 Sports handicap; 2.40 Rallycross: Motogp British Grand Prix, from Brands Hatch.

20 **Cross Country:** The Rank Xerox International Cross Country, from Ipswich; 3.35 Showjumping: the Volvo World Cup Qualifier, from the Grand Hall, Olympia; 3.50 Half-time.

21 **Rugby League:** A second semi-final match in the John Player Trophy; 4.35 Final Score.

22 **News:** read by Jan Leeming; 5.20 Sports round-up.

23 **The Little and Large Show:** Start of a new series. The guests include Kathy Staff (as Last of the Summer Wine's Nora Batty), Lorraine Donegan, and Bucks Fizz. Plus Breakfast: Time weather man Francis Wilson's comedy debut.

24 **The Saturday Film:** Can't Stop the Music (1980) Disco musical about an aspiring composer and his girlfriend trying to make the Big Time in New York. Starring The Village People, with Valerie Perrine and Bruce Jenner, and Hot Gossip. Director: Nancy Walker. The dances include the spectacular YMCA number.

25 **The Two Ronnies:** Patricia Routledge joins the comedy pair in an Agatha Christie spoof. Ronne Barker plays Polon Musical singer singer Stephanie Lawrence.

26 **Bergerac:** A man (Michael Angeles) is arrested for the brutal murder of his wife while on camping holiday in France. John Nettles plays the title role.

27 **News:** read by Jan Leeming. And sports round-up.

28 **International Show Jumping:** the Radio Rentals Puissance, from the Grand Hall, Olympia. Commentary by Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley. Two former winners, Gerd Wiltfang and Hugo Simon, are in the chase for honours. David Vines introduces the coverage.

29 **Late Night Horror:** The Devil Rides Out (1968) Well above average British thriller, adapted from the Dennis Wheatley novel, with Christopher Lee on the side of the angels for a change. He takes a bunch of Satanists, including Patrick Mower and Charles Gray, also starring Nick Amighi, Leon Green and Gwen Prangnon-Davies. Directed by Terence Fisher (director of the Hammer Dracula). Ends at 12.35am.

TV - am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain:** with the Parkinsons (Michael and Mary). Includes news at 7.00 and 8.00; sport at 7.10; *Jeri Semet's Pick of the Week* at 8.30.

8.30 **Rat Rapping:** with Roland, the Date Runc. The Spacewatch winner visits Kennedy Space Centre, in Florida. Also, Christmas grottoes in Britain. And special guest Roy Kinnear.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **LWT Information:** What's on in the area; 9.30 *Sesame Street:* The Muppets help American children climb the tree of knowledge; 10.30 *The Saturday Show:* Fun for youngsters, with a Christmas pun on the menu.

12.15 **World of Sport:** The line-up is: 12.20 World Cup Ski Jumping, from Thunder Bay, Ontario; 12.45 News bulletin; 12.50 The Ball: analysis of the Wales v Yugoslavia match; 1.20 Doncaster Racing: we see the 1.30 race and the 2.00; 1.45 Greyhound racing (William Hill Classic, from Wembley).

2.10 **Snooker:** Live action from the second semi-final of the Hotmelter World Doubles Championship, from Derngate Centre in Northampton. (Further coverage at 2.40, 4.00, and 11.10 tonight; 2.25 Doncaster Racing: the 3.20, 2.40, 3.50; more transfers from Northampton; Half-time results; 4.00 Snooker; 4.45 Results).

5.00 **News from ITN:**

5.05 **Chips:** There is something resembling a cult classic not when a group of vicious punk rockers go on the rampage.

6.00 **3-2-1: Family game show:** compere by Ted Rogers. The Glories of Ancient Greece take a heavy knocking to the comedians, with the star-studded line-up starring Frankie Howard.

7.00 **Cannon and Ball:** The comedians' guests include Sarah Greene, Suzanne Dando and Jocky Wilson. Tonight's comedy highlights include a mutiny at sea.

7.45 **Punchline:** Tonight's comedians' partners are Dana and Chris Tarrant. The Punchlines "pals" include Anne Diamond (of TV-am); Evita star Stephanie Lawrence, and Spurs captain Steve Perryman.

8.15 **Hart to Hart:** A friend of the family comes ... and some frightening memories come flooding back.

9.15 **News:** And sports round-up.

9.30 **Film:** *Piranha* (1978) Shocking drama about a school of vicious flesh-eaters heading towards the holidaymakers. With Bradford Dillman and Heather Menzies.

11.15 **Snooker:** Second semi-final of the Hotmelter Doubles Championship; 12.30 London news. Followed by: *AfterMidnights* Ken Livingston is guest presenter of the chat show.

11.15 **ELO:** Entertainment from the English Light Orchestra. Followed by the Rev Jim Graham's *Night Thoughts*.



Frankie Howard and Company go Greek in tonight's edition of Yorkshire Television's family game show 3-2-1 (ITV, 6.00pm)

BBC 2

10.35 **Open University (until 11.00pm):**

2.45 **The Sky At Night:** A repeat of last week's documentary on the Black Hole Weight-In in which Patrick Moore talks to Dr Michael Penston about an extraordinary development in black hole investigation (7.15).

3.05 **Play Away:** Comedy and music from a talented group headed by Brian Cant and Fiona Benjamin.

3.25 **Film:** *The Emigrants*, Swedish epic in two parts (the second film, *The New Land*, can be seen tonight at 11.00pm) based on the novels of Vilhelm Moberg. It tells the story of brave Swedish farmers who leave their country in the middle of the nineteenth century to settle in North America. In the process, they struggle to establish a settlement in a hostile country. Co-starring two of the pillars of Swedish cinema, Liv Ullmann and Max von Sydow. Directed by Jan Troell.

5.50 **Greek - Language and People:** Final programme. It examines the impact that tourism is having on the traditional Greek way of life. Includes visits to Corfu, Metsovo and the island of Sifnos.

6.15 **Whistle Test - on the Road:** A second showing of last night's programme in which Aztec Camera were seen on stage at Aston University, Birmingham (r).

6.55 **Newswight December:** A compilation of reports that have appeared in BBC2's nightly news programme during the past month. They include Tom McGuirk's frightening film about heroin addiction in Dublin; 7.45 News. And sports round-up.

8.00 **Zubin Mehta Masterclass:** Five young conductors work on Paganini's Violin Concerto No 1. Then Rodica Isak-Cohen and the Israel Philharmonic, under Mehta, play a part of the concert.

8.50 **Film:** *Night and Day* (1946). Totally unrelated biography of the composer Cole Porter, starring Cary Grant and Joely Winton. Tonight's comedy highlights include a mutiny at sea.

11.00 **Film:** *The New Land* (see 3.25 entry). The concluding part of the Swedish film about emigrants to North America in the last century. Ends at 1.35am.

CHANNEL 4

2.00 **Coping:** How Brenda and Bobby coped with the loss of their baby daughter.

2.25 **Film:** *Monkey Business* (1952). Frantic comedy starring Cary Grant as the scientist who invents a drug to halt the ageing process. Good supporting cast includes Ginger Rogers, Charles Coburn, Marilyn Monroe (small role) and Hugh Marlowe. Director: Howard Hawks.

4.15 **Film:** *Healthy, Wealthy, and Dumb:* Three Stooges comedy.

4.35 **The Chicago Teddy Bears:** Gangster world spot. Linc's (Dean Jones) speakeasy is threatened with closure because of a meat boycott.

5.05 **Brookside:** two repeated episodes (r).

6.00 **How We Learned to Fly:** Final film in the series. The "kings" of Van Colorado, demonstrate aeronautics in a spectacular competition.

6.30 **News headlines:** And weather prospects. Followed by: *Citizen 2000:* Two single mothers talk about their first year of motherhood.

7.00 **7 Days:** Moral and religious topics in the headlines.

7.30 **Union World:** How the unions are fighting the Official Secrets Act and the polygraph, better known as the lie detector.

8.00 **Fragile Earth:** Pantanal. A film about the annual cycle of drought and flood in the enormous area (100,000 square kilometres) of marshy plains in the south-western corner of Brazil.

9.00 **The Avengers:** Why Steed (Patrick Macnee) is under house arrest. And what is the awful news he hears about Tara? (Linda Thorson) (r).

10.00 **Fox:** Episode 12 of (13). Ray (Derrick O'Connor), heading north to pick up a criminal on the run, does not know that the police are lying in wait for him (r).

11.00 **Interference:** Final edition of the comedy show involving a pirate radio station and a bunch of enthusiastic entertainers. It has been a show that it has not been easy to like.

11.30 **The Worst of Hollywood:** *Robot Monster* (1953). Unbelievable science-fiction movie with George Barrows as the robot with a mission to destroy the last six humans left alive by his Calibrator. Death Ray. Directed (if that is the right word for it) by Mike Russell. Hills. Closedown at 12.55am.

BBC 1

9.00 **Heads and Tales:** for the toddlers; 9.15 *Sunday Worship:* from Westcott House Chapel, Cambridge; 10.00 *Asian Magazine:* with the Bedford Asian Christian Choir; 10.30 *Let's Get the Message:* from the BBC and local libraries (7.15-10.40 *Months Help: Grade 2* (7.15); 10.55 *Digene:* Final lesson in the Spanish course for beginners (7.15); 10.20 *People First:* for parents with mentally handicapped children; 11.45 *Bedroom Chat:* A Visit to Harpenden (7.15).

12.10 **See Hear:** for those with hearing difficulties; 1.00 *Fantasia:* 10.30 Discovering Birds; Tony Soper and the pleasure of bird-watching; 1.15 *News headlines:*

2.00 **Film:** *The Man in the Santa Suit* (1957). A sentimental made-for-TV story in which Fred Astaire plays eight roles. Also starring Gary Burghoff and Nanette Fabray. Director: Cory Allen; 3.30 *McWay and Donella:* cartoons from Disney. International Show Jumping: Cognac Courvoisier Knock-Out Stakes, at Olympia.

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7.25 **Good Morning Britain:** With David Frost. He introduces today's Thought for a Sunday speaker.

7.30 **Run-Dub-Talk:** for the under-eights.

8.30 **Good Morning Britain:** The line-up includes news at 8.30 and 9.22; Sport at 8.35; the Sunday papers, with a special guest, at 8.40; and *Behind the News* at 8.55.

ITV/LONDON

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BBC 2

11.25 **Open University (until 1.05pm):**

2.25 **Horizon:** The Academy. Basic training in FBI methods at a training complex near Washington, how, for example, to make a gun "with deadly intent".

3.15 **Beethoven Piano Sonatas:** Alfred Brendel plays the master's last piano sonatas, Opus 111 in C minor.

3.45 **The Great Palaces:** A second chance to see the seventh in this eight-film series. It is called *The Business of the House*, and explains how new Acts come into existence (r).

4.00 **Birds of Britain:** The feathered magic to be found in the 20-mile ribbon of the Pennine Caves (the Caves).

4.30 **In Dialogue:** Karen Armstrong and Malcolm Muggeridge. The former nun (her books include *Through the Narrow Gate*) discusses St Paul with the venerable sage.

5.00 **News headlines:** And weather. Followed by: *Horizon*.

5.15 **Snooker:** Darts mixed with general knowledge, with big prizes.

5.30 **Saturday:** The Men's Downhill in Val Gardena.

5.40 **News Review:** Ian Leeming, with sub-titles.

5.50 **The Money Programme:** Poet-Poet.

5.55 **The Outsiders:** John Pilger interviews Patsy Smythe, a victim of the wasting disease Friedrich's Atrophy, now recovering at a dramatic pace.

6.15 **American Football:** Washington Redskins versus Cowboys in Dallas.

7.15 **The World at War:** *Tim's* in this eight-part series. *Tonight:* U-boats in the North Atlantic, between 1939 and 1943.

